

## Threats disrupt SAS flights

STOCKHOLM (R) — Three bomb threats forced Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS) to mount one of its tightest security operations ever Monday, disrupting the airline's flights worldwide. An English-speaking caller rang the airline and said an internal flight from Gothenburg in western Sweden could be sabotaged Monday morning, SAS reported. It was the third threat which the airline made public. Although there were delays on all SAS flights Monday because of security checks, no signs of sabotage were found. "But we are taking all the threats seriously and security is stringent at all our airports," airline spokesman John Herbert said. On Saturday, SAS said it had received a letter saying as SAS plane on a domestic route would be attacked because of Sweden's mediating role which led to the United States opening direct talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). That threat was followed by a tip-off from Interpol that an unidentified group may be planning to attack one of its planes, causing SAS to alert its staff around the world. Herbert said Swedish secret police had not been able to specify who had made the threat, which came from Budapest.

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## Vorontsov arrives in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — A senior Soviet official arrived in Tehran Monday for talks with Iranian-based Afghan rebel leaders, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported. The agency said First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Vorontsov held talks with the Shi'ite alliance following his meetings in Saudi Arabia last month with Burhanuddin Rabbani, leader of the Pakistan-based Mujahedeen alliance. "I am here to exchange views with Iranian officials and leaders of Iran-based Afghan alliance groups on ways to find a solution in principle to the Afghan issue," Vorontsov was quoted as telling reporters on arrival. The Mujahedeen are split into two coalitions, the Iran-based Shi'ite alliance, and the larger, Sunni alliance, based in Pakistan. Last week Rabbani met in Tehran with his Shi'ite counterparts so that both coalitions could present a united front to the Soviets. Last week, Vorontsov had an unprecedented meeting in Rome with the former king of Afghanistan, Mohammad Zahir Shah, who has been mentioned as playing a role in the peacemaking efforts. The Mujahedeen are opposed to any role for the king, who fled to Italy after his overthrow in 1973.

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## Arafat: Joint Arab team to conference

PARIS (Petra) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat has said that five key Arab parties in the Middle East conflict will attend an international peace conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict in a joint delegation.

In an interview with the Paris-based Al Yom Al Saha published Monday, Arafat said that the PLO was considering a plan to hold a meeting of the five parties — Jordan, Syria, Egypt and Lebanon as well as the Palestinians — to draw up an integrated Arab plan and approach at the international conference, to be attended by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Palestinian position in negotiations will be governed by resolutions adopted by the Palestine National Council (PNC) on Palestinian national rights, including the right to repatriation, to self-determination and to set up an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, Arafat said.

Arafat said Jordan's decision to sever legal and administrative links with the West Bank had ended all discussions of a joint

Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to peace talks as proposed by Israel recently.

The PLO chairman said Washington and Moscow had agreed on the concept of an international conference and that direct negotiations would be held between Israel and the Arab side within the framework of the conference along the lines of the Geneva talks held in 1977.

Arafat described the recently launched formal contacts between the PLO and the United States as a dialogue and not "negotiations" since Washington has in the past "refused to listen to us and we refused to listen to it."

"Now they are listening to us and we are listening to them," he said. "These are mere exchange of views. However, we realise that when we negotiate with the Israelis we negotiate with the Americans and when we negotiate with the Americans we negotiate with the Israelis," he said.

The next round of talks between the PLO and the U.S. is scheduled to be held in Tunis on Jan. 20 at the same level of representation, Jordan Television said Monday.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday holds a meeting with members of a special panel on agriculture (Petra photo)

## Prince Hassan calls for plans to replace foreign farm workers

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan held a meeting Monday with members of a committee responsible for the agricultural sector at the Higher Council of Science and Technology (HCST) and members of a centre in charge of agricultural research and transfer of technology sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The time has come for the ministries of education, higher education and the community colleges in the country to help the work of the researchers by drawing up plans designed to replace non-Jordanian workers in the

agricultural sector with Jordanians, the Crown Prince said. The national research centres in agriculture are now turning their attention to this issue, the Crown Prince noted.

He said there should be a real interaction among developmental sectors, specially in education, health and industry and research centres should help such a process and so stimulate the role of the agricultural sector.

Prince Hassan urged agricultural engineers to help carry out resolutions passed by the various development council meetings and underlined the importance of

providing extension service staff with sufficient guidance instructions.

Minister of Health Zuhair Malhas and Minister of Agriculture Youssef Hamdan Al Jabbar attended the meeting.

The agricultural research centre was established in Jordan in 1985 to conduct research designed to promote farming and to propose new administrative and organisational matters governing agricultural processes.

The centre is also in charge of conveying the results of research to farmers and of laying down plans for development.

## Israel tightens policy of gunfire, expulsion, arrests, demolitions

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli occupation authorities have moved to push hard its resolve to quell the Palestinian uprising with army gunfire, expulsions, arrests and house demolitions.

Troops Monday knocked down the homes of two Palestinians accused of hurling fire bombs at a military patrol and an Israeli bus in the West Bank's Balata refugee camp.

The two men were among nine Balata residents arrested. All are accused of carrying out anti-Israeli attacks and distributing leaflets on behalf of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), an army spokeswoman said.

Thirteen Palestinians were expelled from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to Lebanon Sunday, the 24th anniversary of the first military action by the Palestine Liberation Organisation's mainstream Fatah group.

The 13 were accused of heading popular committees steering the uprising in the occupied territories.

"The fact that (the 13) were deported on Fatah day shows the Israeli determination to fight the organisers and instigators of the intifada," a senior official said.

The 13 were flown by helicopter to the northern edge of Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon.

The previous expulsions, the expulsion of eight people on Aug. 2, were also aimed for maximum effect. They coincided with a strike in the occupied territories in protest against just such a

policy. Israel has expelled 49 Palestinians since the uprising erupted and a total of 917 since Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1967.

Palestinian sources said troops shot and wounded 12 protesters Monday in the West Bank town of Ramallah and in several areas of the Gaza Strip.

A six-year-old Palestinian girl from Gaza's Nuseirat refugee camp was shot in the head and critically wounded, according to reports.

The army lifted a round-the-clock curfew imposed on the Gaza Strip's 650,000 residents to curb protests on Fatah day.

Palestinians in Gaza City staged a spontaneous general strike Monday, shutting their businesses and public transportation, to protest the expulsions. Six of the expelled were from the Gaza Strip.

The Palestinians from Balata whose homes were wrecked are among nine in the camp detained recently, who are active with Hamas, the army communicate said.

The communicate did not give the Palestinians' names or specify how their homes were wrecked.

Arab news reports said the houses were home to families of 10 and nine people each, and that

they were bulldozed without letting families take out belongings such as furniture.

The reports identified the detainees whose homes were wrecked as Shaker Abdallah and Youssef Kaaby.

In Arab Jerusalem, police fired rubber bullets and tear-gas to disperse stone-throwing protesters.

Egypt criticised Israel Monday for the expulsions. "Israel's violations of Palestinians' human rights... is a negative position which hinders the peace process and encourages extremism," Boutros Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, told reporters.

"It (the expulsion) contradicts Israel's welfare and the positive decisions the Palestine Liberation Organisation has taken to consolidate peace, coexistence and a peaceful settlement of the Middle East problem," Ghali added.

Egyptian leaders condemned earlier expulsions in terms similar to those Ghali used Monday.

As Ghali spoke, foreign ministry sources said Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid will meet in Paris next Sunday with his Israeli counterpart, Moshe Arens.

It will be their first meeting since Arens took the foreign affairs portfolio in the cabinet formed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir last month.

The last meeting at this level took place about three months ago in New York between Abdul Meguid and Shimon Peres, then Israel's foreign minister. Peres became finance minister in the new Israeli government.

## AROUND THE WORLD...

### Howe starts Gulf visit with call to Israel

KUWAIT (R) — British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe began a nine-day Gulf tour in Kuwait Monday with a call to Israel to take the next step in the Middle East peace process. In talks with the leaders of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Abu Dhabi, Oman and North Yemen, Howe said he would seek views on a broad range of regional concerns, notably the four-month-old ceasefire in the Gulf war and the "improved prospects for a dialogue in the Arab-Israeli dispute." Speaking on arrival in Kuwait, he said he would counsel patience and moderation in Arab-Israeli relations following Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat's renunciation of terrorism and recognition of Israel. Howe, who was met by Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, said: "The central lesson of the crucially important Arab-Israeli peace process is that it needs to be tackled with great patience and tenacity. Moderation is the key to further progress. The next crucial moves do have to come from Israel."

### Israel protests Egyptian accusation

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel told Egypt Monday that an Egyptian newspaper editorial suggesting the Israeli secret service blew up a U.S. airliner could poison relations between the two states. A foreign ministry spokesman said Israel's ambassador in Cairo delivered a letter from Foreign Minister Moshe Arens to his Egyptian counterpart Esmat Abdul Meguid protesting at last Friday's editorial in the semi-official Al Akhbar newspaper. The editorial said Israel was the most likely culprit in the bombing of the Pan Am jet because it wanted to break off the recently-started dialogue between the United States and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

### Soviets to rebuild 111 towns, villages

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet authorities are drawing up plans to rebuild 111 towns and villages damaged in the earthquake that struck Armenia last month, TASS news agency said Monday. All new buildings in the project will be able to withstand tremors up to force 9 on the Mercalli scale, the same strength as the Dec. 7 quake. "Master plans for 111 populated localities in the zone will have been drawn up by Jan. 20," TASS said in a report on a meeting of the Communist Party politburo commission managing the quake's aftermath. The plans will include proposals for houses, clubs, schools, kindergartens, factories, sports complexes and trade centres, TASS said. It said drafts had already been completed for Kirovakan, Leninakan and Spitak.

### Libya: U.S. charges pretext to kill Qadhafi

ROME (AP) — The official Libyan news agency JANA said Monday that the United States was using allegations about a chemical weapons plant as a pretext to launch an attack and kill Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi. The agency referred to a report Sunday in the United Arab Emirates daily Al Khaleej that quoted unidentified Arab sources as saying the Americans planned to send a "hit squad" to kill Qadhafi during an attack on Libya. Al Khaleej also claimed an American task force had traipsed in Italy, Spain and aboard U.S. warships in the Mediterranean for the attack it said could come in January. The newspaper said the strike would include bombing attacks on the nuclear research centre at Tajura, and the alleged chemical weapons plant at Rabta.

### Iraq cuts exports to comply with OPEC quota

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq has cut its oil exports by 90,000 barrels per day (bpd) to comply with its new OPEC output quota of 2.64 million bpd, Oil Ministry sources said Monday. Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi promised last month to halt the trucking of 65,000 bpd through Aqaba and 25,000 bpd through Turkey as from Jan. 1.

### Rebels reject bid to split Eritrea

NAIROBI (R) — Eritrean rebels Monday rejected a plan by the government of President Mengistu Haile Mariam to split the northern Ethiopian province into two autonomous regions to end a 28-year-old war of independence. The Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) said in a radio broadcast monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation that splitting the province represented an outdated policy of dividing Muslims and Christians.

### Kuwait sends condolences to U.S.

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait sent the United States condolences Monday over the Pan Am jet crash in which 270 people died and said it condemned terrorism. The Kuwait News Agency said Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah sent a message in a telegram to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. It said Sabah called for international cooperation to stop the "dangerous phenomenon" of terrorism.

## EEC to launch Mideast peace drive with visits to key parties

PARIS (R) — The European Economic Community (EEC) will begin a Middle East peace initiative immediately with visits to seven countries involved in the conflict, Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez said Monday.

The central aim of the plan is to organise an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations, an idea Israel strongly opposes.

Spain, as president of the EEC council of ministers for the first six months of 1989, is at the helm of the EEC peace initiative announced two weeks ago following Washington's decision to end a ban on contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The 12-nation community has created a diplomatic "troika"

comprising Spain, France and Greece to pursue plans for the international conference. They will represent the EEC in talks with Israel, the PLO and the United States, among others.

"We want to start work (on the peace initiative) immediately. We agreed on a series of visits to seven countries which are part of the conflict," said Ordonez, speaking in Paris after talks with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas. He did not name the designated states.

Ordonez visited Egypt for talks last Friday. He said he believed Israel would drop its opposition to an international conference, since all other alternatives had been tried.

He said an initial report would be presented to a meeting of EEC foreign ministers in Madrid Feb.

14. He added that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat would probably visit Madrid ahead of the ministerial talks, although nothing was yet fixed.

Ordonez, who chairs the EEC council of ministers, has pledged to upgrade community involvement in the peace effort from simply issuing declarations to "active diplomacy."

France is due to take over the presidency of the community for the latter half of the year and the two countries have already announced their intention to collaborate closely.

"We discussed political cooperation, the role of the presidency and of the troika on the international scene, especially in the Middle East," Dumas said.

## Pan Am jet carried unchecked post

FRANKFURT (Agencies) — The Pan Am flight which crashed over Scotland killed 270 people last month was carrying post and valuables which had not been checked, the Frankfurt prosecutor's office said Monday.

Spokesman Hubert Harth confirmed a report due to be published this week in the magazine Bunte saying unchecked post and valuables were loaded in Frankfurt on the Boeing 727 flight which flew to London to connect with the doomed Pan Am Boeing 747.

Bunte said in a statement released ahead of publication that the Frankfurt plane contained four sacks of U.S. military post weighing 10 kilograms and a container of documents from the U.S. bank Manufacturers Hanover Trust.

The magazine quoted a report from the prosecutor's office as saying the military post had not been subject to security checks because it was under the constant supervision of U.S. military personnel. The bank documents were cheques and Christmas cards, it added.

Harth said he was "very cross" about the publication of the magazine report, which he said would hinder the office's investigations into whether a bomb had been smuggled in the flight's luggage in Frankfurt.

The London Times said Saturday that investigators were certain luggage containing an explosive device was transferred from the 727 in London to the forward cargo hold of the 747.

### Search continues

In Lockerbie, Scotland, searchers recovered part of the tail

section of Pan Am Flight 103 Monday, and authorities identified the body of the wife of a Pan Am pilot who criticised the police investigation of the disaster.

All 259 passengers and crew members on the flight died in the crash, and 11 townspeople are thought to have died on the ground.

Officials have recovered 242 bodies so far.

In Palm Springs, California, the White House said Sunday it had received no offer from Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat to help track down those responsible for downing Pan Am 103 but other U.S. officials said such cooperation would be welcome.

National Security Advisor Colin Powell said President Reagan had not received any message from the PLO by late Saturday.

White House spokesman Roman Popadiuk told Reuters Sunday. Popadiuk also denied that the United States had initiated a request to the PLO to ask for help.

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director William Sessions said Sunday in Washington that he welcomed any information Arafat could provide in identifying suspects.

Last week, the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Seyassah quoted an unidentified PLO official as saying the organisation was considering a request by U.S. officials for PLO help.

Reagan said in his weekly radio broadcast Saturday that a report overseen by U.S. President-elect George Bush advocating possible military action against terrorists "ought to be giving some people sleepless nights" in the wake of the bombing.

## Sudan's judges resign

KHARTOUM (R) — Hundreds of Sudanese judges resigned Monday in protest at what they called government interference in their affairs.

The resignations coincided with increasing pressure on Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi from trade and professional union leaders to put an end to five years of civil war in the south.

Judiciary head Mohammad Mirghani Mabrouk told the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) that all the country's judges had given him their resignations Monday except for supreme court members.

He did not say how many were involved but judicial sources put the number at several hundreds. Up to 40 judges sit in the supreme court.

The mass resignation came three days after civil servants flocked to the judiciary began a strike to press for better pay.

The judges' council said the resignations were prompted by a Finance Ministry study to adjust their salaries, which the council said was outside the government's responsibility.

Under the constitution, the judiciary is the responsibility of Sudan's joint presidency, the five-man Supreme Council.

Leaders of Sudan's trade and professional unions told Mahdi Monday that ending the civil war in the south was the only way to put the crisis-plagued country on the path of economic recovery.

## Palestinian lawyers protest Israeli treatment of detainees

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Palestinian lawyers said they would refuse to appear in Israeli military courts for one month from Tuesday to protest against lack of concern for the rights of detainees.

"The military authorities have invested tremendous time, energy, resources, manpower and creativity in suppressing the intifada," Bahji Tamim, head of the Arab Lawyers Committee, told a news conference Monday.

"By contrast, they show such lack of concern or resourcefulness in dealing with the rights of detainees and of justice that we can only see the resulting injustice as a deliberate policy and an additional element in oppressing the people," he said.

"For one month beginning Jan. 3, we will cancel all appearances before the military courts in the occupied territories," Tamim said.

He said arrests were carried out in conditions which

violated international law and rulings of Israel's own supreme court.

"Whenever an arrest is carried out in the occupied territories the detainee is never informed about the reason for his arrest and if arrested outside his home, his family is not informed," said Tamim.

He said lawyers were particularly vexed that army courts regularly adjourned cases for up to several months, leaving their clients in jail.

Tamim said he spoke for all of the approximately 60 lawyers who regularly defend fellow Palestinians accused of activities against the Israeli occupation authorities.

Several other Palestinian lawyers were present at the news conference together with a handful of leftist Israeli lawyers who also handle "security" cases. The Israelis said they would follow the example of their colleagues.

Israeli lawyer Lea Tsemel said there were between 5,000

and 6,000 Palestinians now serving jail terms for security offences with an additional 3,000 awaiting trial.

A further 1,500 prisoners were being held without trial as "administrative detainees," she said.

Lawyers for "security" detainees in the Gaza Strip went on strike for similar reasons nearly a year ago and have since reached an arrangement with military authorities whereby they advise clients but do not enter court themselves.

Tamim said the West Bank lawyers took their decision with the backing of their clients and after "having met only frustration in all appeals to the heads of the military justice establishment."

Other lawyers' complaints included difficulty in meeting clients, humiliating conditions under which prisoners are brought to court and alleged lack of serious investigation when complaints are pressed about torture in prison.

## Peres' austerity programme under fire from both sides

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Critics of a new government austerity plan warned Monday that proposed cuts in the national budget could hurt the army by forcing cuts in weapons purchases or training programmes, Israel Radio reported.

Ministers and legislators of both major political blocs also accused Finance Minister Shimon Peres of making the public nervous by failing to work out all the details of the plan before announcing it Sunday.

Peres' proposal calls for curbing inflation by curtailing cost of living increases to wage earners and cutting about 1 billion shekels (\$600 million) from government spending on the army, schools, hospitals and welfare.

Peres, leader of the Labour Party, said his target was nine per cent inflation by the year's end, or about half of the current annual figure of 18 per cent.

He did not say where spending cuts should be made and left that up to a ministerial committee that was scheduled to convene

Wednesday or Thursday.

But Peres began implementing his plan Sunday by slashing subsidies for food and gasoline, which raised the prices of milk, bread and frozen chicken by up to 26 per cent overnight.

The government has also devalued the shekel by 13 per cent since last week as a first step to help revive export industries that were losing profits because of a frozen exchange rate.

The Tel Aviv stock exchange responded nervously to the devaluation and price rises with an unusually high volume of trading reported within an hour of opening Monday, the radio reported.

Israel's economy is experiencing its worst slowdown since 1982, partly because of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Gross domestic product rose by only one per cent in 1988.

Israeli news reports said Peres' plan also calls for up to 600 million shekels (\$353 million) to be shaved from the military budget, including 250 million ear-

marked for spending on army operations in the occupied territories during the 13-month Palestinian uprising.

Senior officers criticised these plans, fearing the army may have to cut training, put away a newly drawn up 10-year development plan and slow equipment purchases.

Other planned cuts reportedly include up to 200 million shekels (\$118 million) from the education budget which would mean parents may have to pay tuition for kindergartens and high schools.

Moroccan-born Deputy Prime Minister David Levy of the right-wing Likud bloc criticised the price rises and plans to cut spending on schools and welfare.

"These are things that could tear our society apart and turn us back in progress an entire generation. We must be careful," Levy said on the radio.

Ariel Weinstein, a member of parliament from Likud, said Peres was trying to move too fast without considering the implications.



# Najibullah vows to stay, warns rebels

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Afghan President Najibullah said his Soviet-backed government will not quit and warned that Western-backed Mujahadeen rebels will be taught a lesson if they continue fighting, the official Bakhtar news agency reported Monday.

The president spoke Sunday night on Afghanistan's state-run radio and television networks as his unilaterally declared ceasefire in the 10-year-old war began.

The rebels have dismissed the ceasefire and vowed to fight on until all Soviet troops leave the country and Najibullah's government is toppled.

Najibullah said "some persons and circles still irresponsibly think" that peace would return if the People's Democratic Party (PDP) government left the scene.

"No, it is not so. Such persons and circles are committing mistakes," he said.

He said bloodshed would go on for a long time because of the rivalries between rebel groups "if the present state of the Republic of Afghanistan pulls out from the political scene."

Najibullah repeated his call to rebels to join a peace conference with his government but he used the toughest language in recent months to them.

"If extremists and the enemies of peace continue their way and insist on intensification of war and bloodshed, we would adopt reciprocal measures and give them tooth-breaking responses," he said.

He said Kabul had followed last April's U.N.-mediated Geneva accords, under which Moscow must complete the withdrawal of more than 100,000 of its troops from Afghanistan by Feb. 15.

"However, we will certainly put into effect one more thing that if the opposition stubbornly keeps on (pursuing) the military



Najibullah

solution they will be given such a lesson that they will realise very soon the futility of their choice," he said.

He said if the rebels agreed a permanent ceasefire would continue as a prelude to peace.

"We are ready to meet with all opposition forces concerned in a peace gathering as a first step towards an understanding and compromise," Najibullah said.

He said he hoped such a conference would "remove all obstacles and barriers created in the past 10 years and pave the way for attaining compromise in all spheres."

He said Kabul had made many proposals to the rebels for dialogue and ending the war.

"We are prepared to hold talks with the opponents based on these proposals or any other reasonable and objective plan, at any suitable place, time and at any level for the sake of the

people and future of the country."

## Fighting reported

Afghan troops began the ceasefire Sunday but broke it when guerrillas attacked soldiers in rejection of the one-way truce, Radio Kabul said.

The radio said guerrillas attacked soldiers stationed in the villages of Gushta and Deh Bala in the eastern Nangarhar province. Government troops retaliated, leaving eight guerrillas dead and seven injured, the radio said.

The ceasefire offer was made by Najibullah in a nationwide broadcast Friday.

The Soviet Union announced separately in Moscow Saturday that its troops would join the ceasefire at the start of the New Year. There was no word whether Soviet soldiers were involved in the ceasefire or the reported fighting.

Ahmad Shah, an Afghan Mujahadeen leader, rejected the ceasefire offer Sunday in a statement issued from Peshawar, Pakistan, where his seven-party guerrilla alliance is based.

## Rebel unity talks

The Pakistan-based Afghan rebel alliance has invited groups based in Iran to unity talks before considering further discussions with the Soviet Union, rebel leaders said Sunday.

Burhanuddin Rabbani, head of one of seven parties that comprise the alliance, told a news conference the guerrillas wanted "a single platform and a single position" before a second round of talks with the Soviet Union.

Rabbani met Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuli Vorotsov in Saudi Arabia Dec. 3 and 4. He said Sunday the alliance would meet Soviet negotiators in Pakistan but no date had been decided.



New Year in Beirut. Despite the frequent spasms in violence in Lebanon life continues as usual.

# Amal-Hizbollah war spreads to S. Lebanon

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Heavy battles flared in southern Lebanon Monday between rival groups only hours after an uneasy truce took hold between their fighters in Beirut.

Amal militiamen and their Hizbollah (Party of God) rivals blasted each other with artillery, mortars, rockets and heavy machineguns across hills in Iqlim Al Tufah, 20 kilometres south-east of Sidon.

The fighting, hours after Syria mediated the truce in Beirut's southern suburbs, was the latest clash in a struggle for supremacy which erupted with the emergence of Hizbollah in 1984.

Residents in Sidon said explosions echoed across the hills of Iqlim Al Tufah. Hizbollah's last bastion in the south since Amal forced about 1,000 Hizbollah fighters out of the area last April.

A Hizbollah statement said Amal had attacked its positions after agreeing last month to end its feud with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"The attack came after the (Amal leader Nabih) Berri-Arafat accord and after Arafat recognised the Zionist entity and agreed to stop armed struggle against the enemy," the statement said.

Amal sources said the accord stipulated that the PLO, which controls refugee camps near Sidon and used to provide military support for Hizbollah, would stop backing the pro-Iranians.

An Amal spokesman said the fighting Monday flared because Hizbollah was trying to prove

that it still had military muscle in the south.

## Situation in Beirut

Amal sources reported sporadic sniper fire Monday in Beirut, where nine people, including a woman and two baby boys, were killed in New Year weekend battles.

As residents ventured out of shelters to stock up on food, officers from the two militias and the Syrian army supervised bulldozers removing barricades on the main highway to Beirut airport.

Amal sources said three Amal fighters were wounded in the Iqlim Al Tufah fighting, which had raised fears of a wider confrontation between Amal and Hizbollah.

Syria deployed hundreds of its troops to Beirut last May to end Amal-Hizbollah fighting there in which 500 people were killed. The rivalry again erupted in violence for five days in November.

Iran and Syria have mediated scores of ceasefires to quell the power struggle which pits brother against brother.

Hizbollah, believed to hold some of the 17 Western hostages in Beirut's southern suburbs, emerged with Iranian money and arms to challenge Amal for leadership of Lebanon's 1.5 million Shi'ites.

The latest conflict followed talks between Iranian officials and Sheikh Mohammad Mehdi Shamseddine, vice-president of Lebanon's Higher Shi'ite Coun-

cil, during a 20-day visit to Tehran last month.

Shamseddine said he had pressed for an end to the Amal-Hizbollah dispute and an Iranian envoy from Tehran was expected in Lebanon soon.

Amal sources said Hizbollah had started the battles in an attempt to undermine Shamseddine's efforts and to secure a stronger bargaining position in case of any peace settlement.

Several Beirut radio stations said Syria was considering a redeployment of its 4,500 peacekeeping troops in the southern slums to "improve their performance and prevent further fighting."

The fighting was the first serious clash between Amal and Hizbollah since November, when the two sides fought for six days in west and south Beirut, killing 40 people and wounding 87.

Nearly 300 people were killed and 1,000 wounded in a three-week bloodbath between Amal and Hizbollah in May. It was then that Syria sent its troops into the 40-square-kilometre southern suburbs comprising mainly cement shanties.

Police said thousands of panicked residents have been huddled in basements and bomb shelters in the embattled districts of Shiyah, Ghobeiri, Haret Hreik and Mesharrafieh since New Year's Eve.

"I hope 1989 will wipe out all these criminals and let civilised human beings live and breathe safely," said Umm Mohammad, a housewife reached by telephone in Haret Hreik.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### OIC urges support for Palestinians

NICOSIA (R) — The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) called on the world community Sunday to support Palestinian rights to establish an independent state. A statement issued by the OIC's newly-appointed secretary-general, Hamid Al Ghab, on the OIC's 24th anniversary also praised the one-year Fatah movement's 24th anniversary and the Gaza Strip. Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Ghab, a former prime minister of Niger, was appointed head of the 46-member OIC to replace Sharifuddin Pirzada, who held the post for four years. He called on nations to "shoulder their responsibilities towards achieving security and peace to enable the Palestinian people to establish their independent state."

### 'Israeli, Chinese foreign ministers to meet'

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens will meet Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen this week during an international conference in Paris on chemical warfare, Israel Radio said Sunday. A foreign ministry spokesman, asked for comment, said he could confirm only that Israel had requested a meeting with Qian. Israel and China do not have diplomatic relations but their foreign ministers have held talks in recent years at the United Nations. The last meeting took place in September. The foreign ministry spokesman said, a hawkish former ambassador to the United States, would meet Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz during the conference.

### Libya, Morocco abolish visa rules

RABAT (R) — Libya and Morocco announced Monday they have abolished visa requirements for their nationals as part of a plan to allow free movement within the Maghreb. The decision took effect Jan. 1 according to the statement signed by Moroccan Interior Minister Driss Bassri and Khouildi Lahmadi, a member of the Libyan Revolutionary Council. "The procedure is a step to the Libyan Revolutionary Council," said the Libyan news agency JANA, reporting the move. Visas had already been abolished for Moroccans travelling to Algeria or Tunisia.

### The Hague to make official contact with PLO

TUNIS (R) — The Netherlands will make its first official contact with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Tunis next week, a spokesman for the Netherlands embassy said Monday. Henry Wijnaendts, director of political affairs at the Foreign Ministry, and Robert Serry, head of the ministry's Middle East office, will arrive in Tunis Sunday to meet PLO leaders, he said. The meetings will be the first official contact with the PLO though Dutch officials have had informal contacts at lower levels, he added. The diplomats are due to leave Tunis Tuesday. Their programme while in Tunisia had not been decided, he said.

### Lahd leaves Israeli hospital

TEL AVIV (R) — The commander of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia, Antoine Lahd, was to be released from an Israeli hospital Monday after recovering from an assassination attempt, Israel television reported. The television said Lahd, who was shot twice in his home nearly two months ago, would continue physical therapy at a hotel in northern Israel for a few weeks before returning South Lebanon. Lahd visited the home of his Israeli physician on New Year's Eve. His first trip outside the Hafa Hospital since he was admitted Nov. 7. Lahd, a former head of Lebanese army intelligence, took over the Marjayoun-based SLA in 1984 following the death of the militia's founder, Saad Haddad.

### Bonn checks U.S. allegations

BONN (R) — West German authorities were Monday investigating whether a West German company helped Libya build an alleged chemical plant which Washington claims is used to produce chemical weapons. "We are taking the matter very seriously," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. "The evidence is being checked." A U.S. administration official said Sunday President Reagan had raised the matter with Chancellor Helmut Kohl when he visited Washington Nov. 16. The New York Times said U.S. officials had determined that the West German company Imhausen-Chemie, based in the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg, had helped Libya build and design the plant. A spokesman for the local representative of the federal Finance Ministry in Baden-Wuerttemberg said it had begun an investigation into the firm's foreign trade activities. Libya denies the plant will make chemical weapons and has offered a one-off inspection, which Washington has rejected.

### Former spy gets top Israeli post

TEL AVIV (R) — A top spy involved in budding but still semi-clandestine contacts between Israel and China has been appointed director general of Israel's foreign ministry, political sources said Monday. Reuven Merhav, 52, a former senior official of Israel's Mossad intelligence agency, was most recently Israel's consul-general in Hong Kong, the sources said. Reports published abroad said Israel had made major gains in the supply of advanced military technology to China in recent years. Merhav's biography says he served in Israeli diplomatic missions to Ethiopia, Iran and Kenya, and in the Israeli "liaison" office in Lebanon 1983 to 1984.

### Earthquakes hit rural district in Iran

NICOSIA (R) — More than 40 earthquakes have hit a southern Iranian rural district over the last two days, opening cracks in ceilings but causing no casualties, Tehran Radio said Monday. The radio said tremors continued to hit Bastak area, 960 kilometres southeast of Tehran, until noon Monday.

### Bahrain prime minister in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AP) — Bahrain's prime minister, Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, arrived Monday for talks with Iraqi officials on bilateral relations and the situation in the Gulf region, officials said. Khalifa was met at the airport on arrival by Taha Yassin Ramadan, Iraq's deputy prime minister. The officials said that during his one-day visit, Khalifa also will brief the Iraqi leadership on the outcome of the Gulf Cooperation Council's summit meeting which was held in Bahrain last month.

## Turkey to boost security on Syrian border

ANKARA (R) — Turkey will use thermal cameras to detect intruders on its border with Syria, an infiltration route for autonomy-seeking Kurdish rebels, a senior official said Monday.

"The cameras will be used on the 877-kilometre Syrian border within the coming months after experts have been trained," Regional Governor Hayri Kozakcioglu told Anatolian news agency.

Thermal cameras, mostly used at night, detect body heat. They can be mounted on helicopters.

The Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK), which has bases in Lebanon, infiltrates Turkey across the sparsely-populated Syrian border as well as the frontier with Iraq, security sources say.

More than 1,300 people have been killed since 1984 when the PKK launched its latest armed campaign to gain autonomy for Turkey's estimated eight million Kurds.

A total of 119 PKK members were killed and 94 captured last year during clashes with police and soldiers in the east and southeast, the sources said.

They said rebels killed 41 troops and 97 civilians in 1988.

## Iran: Gulf states should clear mines

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's navy chief said Sunday that his country could clear the Gulf of war wreckage and mines laid during the eight-year war with Iraq once Baghdad accepts a stalled U.N. peace resolution, Tehran Television reported.

The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, quoted Rear Admiral Mohammad-Hussein Malekzadegan as saying that "Iran has the complete readiness and technical capability to clear the Shatt Al Arab of mines."

The estuary of the Shatt Al Arab waterway forms the southern boundary between Iran and Iraq.

"When the time comes to clear the waterway within the

framework of U.N. Resolution 598, and agreements are reached in the peace talks on how to clear the strait, we will start dredging to clear the Shatt of any explosive and dangerous substances," the state-run television quoted Malekzadegan as saying.

Malekzadegan also offered Iranian technical assistance to other Arab Gulf states, stressing that any dredging of Gulf waters must be carried out by states in the region, the television said.

Last September, Malekzadegan claimed the Iranian navy had already cleared its own waters of any mines, and was carrying out operations in international waters.

## U.S. issues alert warning to Mediterranean airports

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. Federal Aviation Administrator Allan McArtor said Sunday airports in Athens and other Mediterranean cities have been warned to be on the alert for known extremists carrying false passports.

Asked about a report Athens airport might be the next target of a commercial airliner bomb attack like the one that destroyed Pan Am Flight 103 over Scotland killing 270 people, McArtor said on U.S. television:

"There is a movement of some known terrorists who have in their possession false passports and this was an alert to the Athens area and to other airports in the Mediterranean as well to be on the alert for these false passports."

He did not elaborate. McArtor said the FAA receives hundreds of reports of threats and that he believed civil aviation in general, not just U.S. airliners, had reason to be concerned.

"I personally believe that the threats now exist to civil aviation, not just to U.S. carriers or toward the U.S. government," he said.

McArtor also said the FAA, which has imposed tougher passenger and luggage screening procedures on U.S. airlines operating in Europe and the Middle East, has asked Western European airlines to impose similar checks.

But he said he did not yet know how his request to the West European airlines would be received.

He also criticised the State Department for notifying diplomats at the U.S. embassy in Moscow earlier this year about a possible attack on a Pan Am flight but not revealing the threat more widely.

McArtor said the FAA warned the State Department and Pan Am, as required, but the department did not handle its end properly to give others in Moscow a chance to change their travel plans, as embassy personnel had the opportunity to do.

"I think the State Department is going to look into the action of the Moscow embassy officials that did that, and I personally don't think that was handled very well," he said.

SAS tightens security Scandinavian Airlines Sys-

tem (SAS) has tightened security at airports after receiving a tip-off from Interpol that an unidentified group may be planning an attack against one of its planes, the airline said Monday.

Interpol informed Sweden's secret police of a general threat against SAS which came from Budapest, chief SAS spokesman John Herbert said. He did not elaborate.

"We are taking the threat seriously and security is stringent at all our airports," Herbert said. "But we don't know who has made the threat as the police have not given us all the details."

It was the second threat against SAS in three days. On New Year's Eve the airline said it had received a bomb threat against one of its planes on an

internal flight.

Extra security measures have already caused severe flight delays for the company, which is 50 per cent owned by the governments of Sweden, Norway and Denmark, Herbert said.

Swedish newspapers speculated that an Iranian fundamentalist group was planning an attack as revenge for Sweden's role in recent moves involving the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

But Herbert said he had no such information. Sweden arranged a meeting in Stockholm in early December between PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and American Jews.

He also addressed the United Nations in Geneva, after which the United States agreed to begin talks with the PLO.

# JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

## JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel 77111-1/4

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 ..... Kuvana

16:00 ..... Children programmes

17:00 ..... Educational programme

17:30 ..... Religious programme

18:00 ..... News summary in Arabic

18:30 ..... Programme on world news

19:00 ..... Programme on children

19:10 ..... Agricultural programme

19:45 ..... Programme review

20:00 ..... News in Arabic

20:30 ..... News in Arabic

21:00 ..... News in Arabic

21:30 ..... News in Arabic

22:00 ..... News in Arabic

22:30 ..... News in Arabic

23:00 ..... News in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

19:00 ..... La Chaine

19:00 ..... News in French

19:15 ..... French varieties

19:30 ..... News in Hebrew

20:00 ..... News in Arabic

20:30 ..... Who's the Boss

21:00 ..... Sophia and Constance

22:00 ..... News in English

22:30 ..... Addict

## PRAYER TIMES

05:00 ..... Fajr

06:31 ..... Sunrise

11:39 ..... Dhuhr

14:24 ..... Asr

16:47 ..... Maghreb

18:09 ..... Isha

## CHURCHES

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637400.

Sgt. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.

Terranova Church Tel. 622366.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625343.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Assunta International Church Tel. 685326.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.

Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822605.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821364.

## WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy to cloudy with possibility of scattered rain and winds will be southeasterly moderate.

In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with a chance for thundershowers and winds will be southerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp.

Amman ..... 7 / 7

Aqaba ..... 7 / 15

Deserts ..... 1 / 9

Jordan Valley ..... 6 / 14

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 9, Aqaba 16. Humidity readings: Amman 80 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Muntzer Al Oureim ..... 776258

Dr. Issa Abu Hayder ..... 637123

Dr. Suleiman Al Kayyal ..... 791880

Dr. Basim Al Qaddoumi ..... 646024

Fine pharmacy ..... 661912

Ferdous pharmacy ..... 778338

Al Asena pharmacy ..... 637055

Nairoukh pharmacy ..... 625672

Al Salam pharmacy ..... 626730

Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945

Shmeisani pharmacy ..... 637660

IRBID:

Dr. Mohammad Al Shara' ..... (—)

Al Shara' pharmacy ..... 985238

ZARQA:

Dr. Suleiman Abu Adieh ..... 983040

Khalifeh pharmacy ..... 985417

Civil Defence Directorate ..... 661111

Civil Defence Emergency ..... 630341



## Queen Noor attends graduation of new batch of policewomen

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A group of 45 policewomen graduated here Monday at a ceremony attended by Her Majesty Queen Noor after completing a training course in police work, administrative tasks and other skills associated with policewomen's work at different departments.

The Queen watched the graduates parade and carry out a performance of their different skills, such as the use of weapons, storming buildings and freeing hostages and other skills.

She distributed diplomas to the graduates and awards to those excelling in their courses.

The graduates have undergone training in martial arts such as judo and karate, fencing, physical fitness and sports. They also received military training and theoretical lectures on Jordanian laws and police work, according to Major Hussein Sbahin, commander of the Jordanian Women Police Force.

She said that the new batch of policewomen will take up their posts alongside men and women who have pledged to ensure further security and stability for their country.

Public Security Department (PSD) Director General Abdul Hadi Al Majali and senior police officers were present at the graduation ceremony.

Before the ceremony the Queen called at the PSD Headquarters and was briefed on the process of improvements and modernisation which is going on at all PSD-affiliated centres.

Queen Noor toured different departments and was briefed by police officers on their functions and duties.

The graduates will be employed to carry out traffic duties, or will be stationed at various departments including the PSD offices, airports and border posts.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday attends the graduation of a new batch of policewomen in Amman.

## Prince Hassan calls for council to coordinate health services



HRH Crown Prince Hassan

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday called for developing the health system with its preventive and curative branches and for creating an intermediate council for coordinating and integrating efforts of all the parties concerned with health.

At a meeting attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thouqan Hindawi, ministers of Health and Planning, presidents of the Jordan universities and secretaries general of the Higher Council of Science and Technology and the ministries of

Planning, Education and Higher Education, Prince Hassan stressed the need for coordinating efforts to the field of social services through the establishment of a special council comprising the secretaries general of the ministries concerned.

Such a council is needed for uniting the decision making body and for speeding up the implementation of the recommendations of various development seminars.

Prince Hassan also called for crystallising a specific concept for creating a general secretariat to be in charge of coordinating economic activities of the private sector. The Crown Prince called on the Jordanian universities to lay the foundations for dialogue on contemporary issues among the university students and for setting up a centre to assist the secondary stage students in selecting the right disciplines.

## 4 Arab countries discuss air transport federation

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Contact are currently underway between representatives of the national air carriers in Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and Kuwait to form an Arab Federation for Air Transport and Shipping, Director of the Iraqi Airways Nouredine Safi Hamad said Monday.

Hamad added that representatives for the Royal Jordanian, Iraqi Airways, Egypt Air, and Kuwait Airline will meet later this month in Baghdad to discuss the proposed federation, which the four countries will serve as its nucleus.

However, Hamad noted, membership in the federation will be open to all Arab countries.

Once established, the flights between the contracting countries will be considered as internal flights and as such the flight rates will be lower than the current flight rates, because it will allow each company to perform a specialised task, thus contributing to saving hard currency. The proposed federation will open up new scopes for Arab airline companies to fly to various world destinations.

## Jordan air fares rise

AMMAN (R) — Jordan has increased the price of airline tickets bought in the country by 28 per cent to offset the adjustment in the value of the Jordanian dinar and to deter speculators, an official said Monday.

The increase, ordered by the Civil Aviation Authority, is effective from Jan. 1 and will apply to Royal Jordanian and foreign airlines, he said.

Ghassan Ali, Royal Jordanian vice-president for sales and marketing, said people from outside Jordan had been buying tickets at a 40 per cent discount compared with international prices.

"The aim is to absorb the difference in the exchange value

of the dinar and to adjust the imbalance in fares which had led to many passengers from outside Jordan buying tickets here for 40 per cent less than corresponding fares elsewhere," Ali said.

Ali said the increase would depress sales of tickets for leisure trips but would not affect business or official travel.

Royal Jordanian Chairman Ali Ghandour has said increased ticket sales abroad should compensate for any local decline.

Last month he forecast that the airline would carry 1.5 million passengers in '89, 200,000 more than last year, and make a net profit of JD 1.6 million (\$3.4 million), compared to JD 1.9 million (\$4.0 million) in 1988.

## JVA approves plan for housing units

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) board Monday approved plans for housing units in the Jordan Valley region and said that more than 1,000 land units will be distributed for housing to local inhabitants who had earlier applied for them.

The meeting, which was chaired by Minister of Water and Irrigation Ahmad Dakqan, said that 1,038 units of land will be distributed as follows: 381 units for Thahr Al Ramel district, 297 units for Al Rabie district, 70 units for Dirar and 280 plots for Al Balawneh district.

The board also decided on a set of measures for the distribution of housing units to the Jordan Valley inhabitants.

These beneficiaries will be the farmers actually involved in agricultural work and living on their own lands, those of them who work there but do not live in the valley though they own pieces of land there, as well as those farmers who do not own any land and do not live there.

These were grouped into six different categories according to the statement following the meeting.

It said that farmers in the first, second, fourth and fifth categories can buy land at JD 200 a unit, while JD 125 will be paid for

every unit for those in third category and JD 250 for those in sixth category.

The statement made it clear that each of the units must be 288 square metres in area but additional areas can be sold to the farmers at the rate of 800 fils per square metre.

The board said beneficiaries have three months to pay for their plots of land otherwise they will be given to others according to the statement.

## New regulations issued for transit vehicles

AMMAN (Petra) — The Customs Department has issued new regulations for all types of vehicles and means of transport passing through Jordanian territory in transit, and said they were designed to facilitate the vehicles' passage and avoid stopping for inspection.

According to the new rules all covered vehicles should be qualified to carry goods overland, should allow for official seals to be easily affixed on them, should not have concealed cavities where anything can be concealed, there should be a partition between the driver's compartment and the goods compartment and: that

arrangements should be made so that none of the sealed goods can be taken out or anything added to them on the way.

The new regulations stipulate that the cover over the transported commodities should be in good condition, not torn in any part, it should be made of strong linen or cloth covered with plastic and sufficient for the whole load.

The regulations stipulated that all parts of the containers carrying the goods be fixed and immovable and that the doors should firmly shut and allow for a customs seal to be placed easily on them.

## Hindwai inspects Tawjihi exam halls in Tafileh

TAFILEH (Petra, J.T.) — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi Monday visited Tafileh district in southern Jordan and inspected examination halls where Tawjihi students are currently taking an examination session set by the Ministry of Education for the 1988-1989 school year.

The minister met with students and enquired from them about the standard of questions and the general conditions surrounding the examination halls.

The minister enquired in particular about the English language, mathematics and physics examinations which the students have already sat for in the light of comments published in the Arabic daily newspapers. Columnists in these dailies have been commenting on the comments on the veying complaints by students about the difficult sets of questions especially in physics given to the Tawjihi students in the current examination session.

Replies to such complaints from ministry officials gave assurances that all questions for the examination were within the required subjects and textbooks assigned for the students.

During his tours, the minister said he wanted to make sure that the examinations were going on according to plan, to hear the complaints and remarks directly from the students themselves and to listen to the comments on the general circumstances and conditions at the examination halls.

At the end of the tour Hindawi met with the Tafileh governor and heard demands and requests

about improving the general educational conditions in the Tafileh area, the school buildings needed there; and those which will be built in implementation of the national educational conference resolutions of last year.

Hindawi was accompanied on the tour by the director of examinations and other officials from the Ministry of Education.

A total of 58,618 male and female students are taking the current session of the Tawjihi examinations which ends on Jan. 9, 1989.

There will be another session for the Tawjihi students in June, and the final results will be expected a month later, will before the universities begin the autumn semester.

The Ministry of Education, which organised the examinations, has made available a total of 768 halls in different governorates of which 254 are located in the Amman region.



Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thouqan Hindawi Monday taking Tawjihi examinations in Tafileh Monday. Thouqan Hindawi listens to remarks by a student (Petra photo)

## 6,598 people killed, 103,780 injured in 177,128 road accidents since 1970

AMMAN (Petra) — The total number of road accidents in Jordan from 1970 until the end 1987 stood at 177,128 which resulted in the death of 6,598 people and the injury of 103,780 according to Colonel Husni Ala'uddin, the director of the Traffic Department.

He said 1985 claimed the highest figure of casualties — 524 killed and 9,100 injured — from road accidents in the Kingdom. Ala'uddin noted in a seminar organised by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, recently.

The seminar was organised in view of a government decision to enforce the use of seat belts in all vehicles as of this month.

The use of seat belts while travelling by car can be instrumental in saving lives of many people. A survey conducted in Britain recently showed that seat belts reduced injuries for front seat passengers by 26 per cent and reduced death rates by 23 per cent, Ala'uddin noted.

He said that Australia was the first country to impose a law on the use of seat belts in 1972 followed by New Zealand and the practice has been applied in all European countries, the United States and Canada since then.

In Jordan he said a law was passed in 1983 enforcing the use of seat belts but there were amendments to the law in 1985 and 1987.

Ala'uddin said that the human element is the most important and human rights were proved in the past to be responsible for most of the road accidents, either through carelessness or through neglect to check their cars to ensure that they were fit for the road.

Health Minister Zuhair

Malhas, who served as president of the Jordan Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents, said that prevention is always better than cure and the seat belts can save a lot of people from danger. They can also save efforts and cost of dealing with injuries that might result from accidents on the road.

Malhas denied that seat belts can have any adverse effects on pregnant women and said that the seat belts had been proven to give 100 per cent protection for children.

On the whole, he said, seat belts are sure to protect passengers from head and neck injuries which more often than not lead to unconsciousness.

Malhas demanded that campaigns to spread awareness among the public, especially children, should be launched and fines should be imposed on those who violate the law.



Scenes from road accidents in Jordan in the recent past (file photos)

## Karak to celebrate Arbor Day on Jan. 8

KARAK (Petra) — Karak Governorate will celebrate Arbor Day on Jan. 8, according to a decision taken by a meeting chaired by Karak Governor Mohammad Shohaki.

He said that 20,000 forest and fruit tree saplings will be planted at the newly created handicraft zone near Karak, as well as around schools and in public places in Karak, Oaser, Mazar and other areas of the governorate.

The Agriculture Department director here said that a plan has been laid down for greening all parts of the Karak Governorate.

Naour district is also celebrating Arbor Day along with other towns in the country. The district governor said tree-planting ceremonies will be held Jan. 20.

Arbor Day falls Jan. 15 this year when official tree-planting ceremonies normally are held in Amman and in its suburbs.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by Friends of Plastic Art in Gulf countries at the National Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of works by Contemporary Arab Artists at Al Wasiti Art Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Farouk Lambaz at Alia Art Gallery — 5:30 p.m.
- ★ The Jordanian plastic art exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ The Iraqi Cultural Week which includes an exhibition by the Iraqi artist Salam Al Madamghah and an exhibition of children's paintings and children's literary and cultural books, at the Royal Cultural Centre.

### BAZAAR

- ★ A charity bazaar that includes wooden handicrafts, embroideries, artificial flowers, children's toys and cultural books at Ala'a Centre, Bittin Refugee Camp.

### FILM

- ★ A scientific film on the mechanism and functions of the brain at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.



# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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Editorial Director:  
RAKAN AL MAJALI  
Director General:  
DR. RADI AL WAQFI  
Editor-in-Chief:  
DR. WALEED M. SADI

Editorial and advertising offices:  
Jordan Press Foundation,  
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171-4, 670141-4, 684311, 684366  
Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO  
Facsimile: 661242

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## One law for all

LIBYA'S offer to submit its factory accused by Washington of manufacturing chemical weapons to international inspection is a good opener to defuse the anxiety that has built up and fanned by various circles over the true nature of the plant in question. Such a Libyan offer should not be rejected outright as Washington has done. If the Libyan initiative is incomplete, those concerned should submit counter offers instead of taking precipitous reaction to the situation.

In view of the fact that Tripoli maintains that the complex in question is for peaceful purposes and specifically to produce medicine rather than poison gas as alleged by Washington, the matter should be resolved by inspection to the satisfaction of all sides. To be sure, the manufacture and use of chemical weapons had been outlawed in the wake of World War I. The decision to forbid their production and deployment was not taken lightly or for artificial reasons. The international community has a vested humanitarian reasons to make sure that such weapons continue to be outlawed not only de jure but also de facto. And when a genuine dispute arises about any country's behaviour and practice with regard to such weapons, international inspection should be resorted to settle the issues of fact arising from such a dispute. As in the case of Libya, the conflict that persisted is apparently hinged on the frequency of any such independent inspection. If the concern over the Libyan plant in question can be dispelled by maintaining periodic vigilance over the factory in dispute, then be it. Likewise other countries should also offer to place their chemical complexes to similar surveillance. It is unfair to put some countries under strict control while others are left free to repudiate the intent and purposes of the international treaty outlawing chemical weapons.

And come to think of it, why has Washington singled out chemical weapons from the list of other mass destructive weapons threatening humanity. To be more specific, why Israel's nuclear arsenal escaped international attention and concern when the destructive effects of such weapons are no less painful and inhumanitarian than chemical weapons. Surely it must have crossed the minds of all those who shed crocodile tears over the spread of chemical weapons that such a weapons system is a poor countries' answer to the threat of nuclear weapons that ominously looms on their horizon. The concern over chemical weapons and their spread would become more credible if the Western capitals would move with similar vigour against the manufacture and deployment of nuclear weapons. If anything, nuclear weapons are more destructive than chemical weapons. On legal terms, nuclear weapons have also been declared unlawful by many international instruments. To cite only a few, the Protocols, adopted in 1977, to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 have rendered the deployment of nuclear weapons as contrary to the letter and spirit of the protocols. That is why the superpowers have yet to ratify the said protocols. And that is why developing countries continue to be tempted to manufacture chemical weapons.

## ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

The economic crisis in Israel lies at the heart of an editorial tackled by Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday. No sooner had the Israeli leaders got over the issue of forming a coalition government than it found itself embroiled in an economic crisis of serious dimensions, said the paper. It said that the current economic difficulties come as a natural result of the long standing evil policies and repressive measures Israel has adopted over the years and coincide with an intensification of its isolation from the rest of the world due to its intransigent stance with regard to peace. The economic crisis in Israel reflects the aggressive policies Tel Aviv continues to pursue and its occupation of Arab land and lust for expansion at the expense of Arab countries, the paper added. There can be no doubt that the Palestinian uprising, now in its second year had played an instrumental role in creating difficulties for the Israeli leadership both on the political and military fronts and paved the way for the current economic dilemma, the paper noted. It said that the Arab labourers refrain from working at Israeli factories. The Palestinian people's rejection of Israeli made goods and the shrinking of production have had their devastating effect on the Israeli economy.

Writing in Al Ra'i daily Mahmoud Al Rimawi comments the Egyptian authorities for allowing the Arab Bar Federation to appoint a lawyer to defend Khaled Abdul Nasser, son of the late President Jamal Abdul Nasser who is to be tried for his involvement in anti-government activities. Rimawi says that the decision was a very wise step proving that Egypt is not only adhering to democratic conduct but is determined to enhance pan-Arab strategies and to find its way back to the Arab fold. Khaled Abdul Nasser is facing trial for taking steps to re-organise and rectify policies which had been planned by Anwar Sadat who signed a peace treaty with Israel — which was considered as an anti-Arab move, the writer notes. He says that Khaled Abdul Nasser has been supported through political groups inside and outside Egypt and his ideas are being upheld by a large sector of the Arab masses. The Egyptian authorities, the writer points out, have responded favourably to this and did not rush the trial, a move considered as very sensible and one that thwarted the evil objectives of Israel whose secret agents had failed to assassinate Khaled who is now abroad.

Al Dstour newspaper wrote Monday Israel's continued drive to implement its repressive actions against the Arab population. Israel's deportation of a new group of Arab activists, it said, was another crime to be committed against the oppressed people of Palestine, and another move to try to stifle the spirit of resistance to occupation. The deportation of the 13 Arabs comes in the wake of a long series of atrocities committed daily in the occupied territories and complements such actions as demolishing of homes, detention, starving refugees, and sieges imposed on towns and villages, the paper noted. It said that Israel's criminal actions have been on the increase since the creation of the Palestine state and since the moment when Palestinian leaders announced their commitments to achieve peace.

## Weekly Political Pulse

# Israel must take first step for truce

CONSIDERABLE heated debate ensued from the proposal to declare a truce in the occupied territories which gained currency when Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij first suggested it on the eve of Christmas. Mayor Freij might have been motivated by the spirit of Christmas when he made this proposal or he may have calculated that such an idea would enhance the chances of peace in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. One can think of millions of reasons why such an opinion should be defeated and concurrently submit other millions of explanations why this suggestion should be given a try in order to give peace a chance. But whether one is for or against the idea it would be presumptuous on the people from without the occupied territories to pass a judgment on a phenomenon which essentially came to being from within the occupied territories. In other words, the final word on this issue must be made by the Palestinians who have waged the uprising for more than one year with much to show for their revolt. They are the individuals and people who experienced the bitter-sweet taste of their intifada and are accordingly the better judges of when it

should start and when it should stop. After all, the uprising was a spontaneous internal struggle that flared up not by outside orders or instructions but rather by local sentiment spurred by the bitterness of occupation and the denial of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people as espoused by international legitimacy.

Come to think of it, if one applies the logic of the Afghan government's offer made public on New Year's Eve to observe a unilateral ceasefire in a bid to establish the appropriate environment for the quest for peace in that war-torn country, one would suggest that the occupying Israeli forces should be the party to declare a unilateral truce in the occupied territories, by stopping their oppression and the killing of Palestinian civilians, who are, by and large, boys and girls. If Israel can ever be persuaded to observe such a truce, it would open many avenues for constructing on such a unilateral Israeli truce with a view to accelerating the process of dialogue. Other options are also available to Israel. It can signal its willingness to deescalate the situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip by accepting to participate at the projected

international peace conference and engage the Arab side including the PLO in genuine negotiations leading to its withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967. The moral of the Afghan story is that the stronger party to a conflict should take the initiative by observing a unilateral truce till the weaker side senses that the messages and signals emanating from its adversary are genuine and conducive to reciprocity.

But by rejecting all Palestinian overtures for peace and repudiating the international consensus on peace terms between the Arab and Israeli sides, Israel is not offering the Arab side, the Arab and Israeli sides, anything to go including the Palestinians under Israeli occupation, anything to go on. If Israel is indeed desirous of a truce in the occupied territories, it is incumbent on the occupying power to take the initiative by assuring the Arab side that the message of the intifada has truly soaked in their psyche and that there has been a real metamorphosis in the Israeli thinking on the final shape of a negotiated settlement between the two sides to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

## Shaking off the shadows of the past

# Peace — Israel's biggest challenge

In the second of two articles, John West reflects the feelings of Israelis he encountered over the Christmas holidays. The first article appeared Monday, Jan. 2.

AS A foreigner, you begin to notice the effects of the intifada on the Israelis about ten seconds after crossing the King Hussein Bridge. A snarling turned out young officer steps on board, says, "Good morning, everyone!" in a cheery American accent and smiles at as many people as he can without twisting his neck. The propaganda war is on. Throughout the crossover, officials take huge pains to be polite and friendly, even as they meticulously go through their paces. A young woman conscript checks the handbag of a tourist as though they were comparing fashion notes in the toilet at a restaurant. The officer compliments you on the photograph in your passport. There is the ritual joke as every camera owner is asked to take a photograph of the ceiling in the inspection lobby. Well-rehearsed amiability pervades the air.

As you step out into the open, however, the cheeriness vanishes into thin air. While the Palestinians in the West Bank are friendly, confident with foreigners, and eager to talk, the Israelis are closed and suspicious. The world political stage, where the Palestinians are, taking the initiative while the Israelis sit sullenly by, is mirrored on the individual level.

In an Arab cafe in Occupied Jerusalem, when I asked for the

nearest paper shop only to find that they were all closed, the owner gave me the paper he had been reading himself. In Israeli cafes, the waitress might ask for the money for your coffee before you begin drinking it.

Wandering through the bars of West Jerusalem at night, you immediately notice how young everyone is. Sixteen year old girls with specially torn jeans bounce by. The boys, with greased back hair, drink beer from the bottle, smoke soft consciously and try to look mean. The area seems more American than America. Every night like a huge high school graduation dance — frenetic energy, and an underlying sensation that something is coming to an end. There is no room for talking here, and no time — this is "The Good Life."

A Sephardi Jew is small-talking with two Palestinians in fluent Arabic, asking them about their jobs and salaries. When they get up and leave, I start talking to him — he answers me in pigeon English.

"Why don't you speak with me in Arabic?" I ask him. "It's much better than your English."

He shrugs, "I speak it when I have to," he replies.

— Many of the teenaged boys

bave yarmulkes set at a rakish angle on their heads as they roam through the streets in packs — slanted like a beret and sometimes clipped to the front of their hair, rather than in its traditional position on the crown of the head. In West Jerusalem, it is chic to be religious.

Guns are everywhere. Soldiers appear in nightclubs, with their guns slung over their shoulders, and you only know for sure that they are off duty when they start bobbing up and down to the music.

In an empty corner bar, a group of young men are sitting around making music. One plays the guitar, and another the harmonica while a third, sprawled in the corner, sings softly as he strokes a black puppy. The mood is relaxed and they play well — the barman has sat down to listen to them. Their repertoire is folksy and protest songs. They sing a song about Steve Biko, and you feel that something, somewhere has gone wrong — what are Israel's anti-establishment rebels, its angry young men, going to do about the injustice half a mile away at the gates of the Old City, let alone South Africa? But these young men are not angry — they are sad and listless. As we try to join in, they ignore us — they have had enough of foreigners.

— The soldiers on guard in the

Old City are perpetually nervous. Often they are little more than children, dwarfed by their equipment and their responsibilities.

"Merry Christmas", one of them shouts in our faces we walk through the Damascus Gate at one in the morning, jumping out from behind the stone doorway. He causes no actual problems, but his barely concealed aggression suggests that he would have liked to. Young European tourists have been shouting the same thing all evening, no doubt with the same aggressive undertones ("... you fascists").

In the mornings, their guns and packs, sticking out behind them, often get tangled up in the bustle as they walk through the crowded souk.

In a hostel in Old City of Jerusalem, Israel's young guest workers gather for the Christmas holidays, and to lick their wounds. Only ten years ago they flocked to the kibbutzes in their thousands, the world's travelling youth, eager to experience and experiment with the ideals of a community life. They still come now, but in smaller numbers and for different reasons.

"You can get work the same day," says an Australian girl. "We spend the summer going round Europe, then come here for the winter to work in the bars or whatever and save some money, and then on to India the next summer." Young foreigners form a second, temporary underclass in the Israeli economy, alongside the permanent Palestinians.

The sitting room abounds with stories of soldiers and shootings — in five years Israel has changed from being the new, open, radical hope of the future to being an oppressive outpost of racism in the eyes of young idealists like these.

A young woman who works on a kibbutz, says loudly that she thinks what the army is doing in the intifada "is disgusting. And another thing — the Arabs are good people, I don't care what anybody says" — in a buzzing alleyway of bars, 30 Israelis are standing within 5 metres of us, but none of them rises to the challenge.

An us and them mentality is developing between all Jews and non-Jews in Israel, not just Israeli Jews and Palestinian Arabs. The Israelis' unspoken declaration to the foreigner runs roughly as follows:

You are either with us or against us. If you are with us, then there is no need to discuss anything — we can pass pleasantries about the beauty of the country, the nightlife, and pre-

tend we are exactly the same. If you are against us, we don't want to talk to you anyway.

Racism. The word is so emotionally charged that it is rarely used except in accusation, hurled across a political divide by sworn enemies. Yet the true meaning of the word lies beyond isms andologies, in the everyday activities of normal people going about their business.

"We hate the Arabs and they hate us. We want to kill them and they want to kill us. That's the way it is." The speaker is a post office clerk in Tel Aviv, who has noticed that all the parcels of coffee and sweets I am wrapping to send as presents have Arabic writing on them (having not had time to post them in Occupied Jerusalem). It is not hate, however, that shows on her face, but simply resignation to the ways of the world, which naive foreigners can't be expected to understand. "I used to go into the Old City in Jerusalem. But now, since the intifada, we can't — they want to kill all of us, women and children. You believe they want peace?"

When was the last time she talked to an Arab for more than five minutes?

"I don't like to talk to them. I know what they are like."

Why, I ask a group of people in a Tel Aviv bar, is it impossible to talk to people in Jerusalem?

"Because they are living under tension," says a young photography student, with long uncombed hair and a loose, baggy jumper. "And there are too many religious people there — it is more relaxed here."

But why are the Arabs so open, so confident, I continue, trying to manoeuvre to the real topic of conversation.

"The Arabs are silly, they will say anything," she says dismissively. The bright, pleasant, open-minded individual crumples in an instant, crushed beneath the weight of decades of indoctrination.

If this is the unchanging nature of "the Arab," then why did this openness and confidence only bring about the intifada last year?

She reflects for a moment, and then admits "I don't know. We don't know the Arabs."

Later, they ask me to say something in Arabic, anything. "This maybe the first time you hear the Arabic language from someone you consider as a friend," I slowly intone. They guess the meaning.

— It may strike the visitor to

Tel Aviv that racism is a natural consequence, not just of Israel's function as a Zionist state, but of its history as a settler state.

Like all settler states, established in the teeth of fierce local opposition, the world view of the original settlers becomes fossilised into the status quo, part of the essential fabric of that society. Israel does indeed have a working democracy among its settler population, because democracy was among the cherished values of the European intellectuals who founded it in the 1940's. Among the rest of their cultural baggage, however, was the racism endemic among all sectors of European and American society in that period — and while the old empires have been disbanded, and the American Civil Rights Movement has permanently altered the way ethnic minorities are viewed in the West, these developments have largely bypassed Israel, the settler state. In a sense, it is Israel's very wish to belong to the West, or what it imagines the West to be, that cripples its evolution.

In Tel Aviv clean buses run on time, working phone booths stand on every street corner, and everyone speaks English — irrefutable evidence to the Israelis that they are a civilised people, and stand with the civilised world. "The Arabs" are mere natives in the nineteenth century colonial sense of the word, privileged to be under the tutelage of Israel. The intifada is the ungrateful tantrum of unruly children. It is no coincidence that so many of the West Bank settlers are American-born — it is like reliving the legend of the Wild West.

Happily, this is not the mind set of all Israelis. Unhappily, it is still the prevailing view, the view the establishment acts upon. It is the loudest voice among the many that conflict in this confusing country.

"We cannot trust them," the student said sadly. "Cannot" indeed — the Jews' fate down the ages hardly encourages the art of trusting. Now, however, if only for their own sake, they must learn.

"Tell us some secrets," they joke in Tel Aviv as I tell them I am leaving to get the bus back to Jerusalem, and then to Amman. "You must know, all the secret information."

"I'll tell you one of the biggest secrets in Israel," I reply. They lean forward, expectant.

"They — the Palestinians — want peace."

I hope they understood.

# Salinas kicks over hornet's nest on church-state ties

By Eloy O. Aguilar  
The Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — President Carlos Salinas de Gortari has triggered a political uproar by hinting that his government wants to normalise relations with the Roman Catholic Church, an entity that legally does not even exist in Mexico.

The church, which has not faded despite the strictures of the Mexican constitution, welcomed the move. Conservative parties favoured a debate to redefine the church's status, while critics said the government should remain true to the constitution's ideals.

The ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, is itself torn between the new president's wishes and loyalty to the memory of the constitution's framers, the PRI's political forefathers.

Congresswoman Socorro Diaz, director of El Dia, a newspaper sponsored by the PRI's left wing, said the "reopening of a debate settled by history... does not strengthen national unity and creates disagreement and confrontation among Mexicans."

Some saw Salinas' move as

another effort to widen his government's support at a time when his party is losing much of its traditional backing among labour and the middle class. Salinas took office on Dec. 1 after an election victory last July that is still disputed by his opponents.

The church-state issue also divides the opposition. During a debate in congress, conservative delegates shouted "fanatic," "Robespierre" and "son of Lenin" at left-wing delegates who opposed the move.

It is one of Mexico's contradictions that a country with a largely Catholic population has an officially anti-clerical government. But the government ignores technical violations of the law by the church in order to maintain political peace.

The Mexican constitution ratified in 1917 by the triumphant forces of the Mexican Revolution went beyond separation of church and state as it is known in the United States. It denied the church any legal status and tried to eliminate church influence.

"The law does not recognise the religious associations known as churches," says one of the paragraphs of article 130 of the

constitution. The revolutionaries — peasant and labour leaders and generals with a strong anti-church bias — saw the church as part of a longstanding establishment that had oppressed the population. The church saw them as Godless destroyers of an established order.

Priests are forbidden to vote, speak or write about politics or the government. They cannot teach, churches cannot own property and the government can determine the number of priests in each state. No foreign priest can work in Mexico. Public displays of religion are forbidden.

Yet the church runs schools and universities where children of government leaders study, priests in fact write opinion columns and vote and presidents hold closed meetings with bishops.

Mexico remains the most Catholic country in the hemisphere. Catholic Spain's favourite child, Every year, millions participate in public processions to the Basilica of the Virgin of Guadalupe, Patron Saint of Mexico.

Two million listened in an awe-some silence, when Pope John



Carlos Salinas de Gortari

Paul II spoke at a public mass here. He stayed for a week on his first visit to the American continent.

In the late 1920s Catholics launched the Cristero Revolt because of government persecution. A church hero of that era is Father Miguel Pro, a Jesuit priest executed by the government, who was beatified in November.

Salinas indicated the government should acknowledge the church's large following in his inaugural speech on Dec. 1. He said that a "modern state main-

tains transparency (in dealings) and modernises its relationship with unions, business groups, news organisations... and the church."

It was the first time in the history of modern Mexico that a president publicly acknowledged the church as part of society. Sitting in the gallery, also for the first time, were representatives of the church — Cardinal Ernesto Corripio Ahumada, four other bishops, and Papal Nuncio Monsignor Girolamo Prigione.

A few days later Interior Minister Fernando Gutierrez Barrios caused front-page headlines by publicly declaring, "The church exists." The debate has since gotten heavy coverage in the press.

In congress, Popular Socialist Party delegate Alfredo Reyes Contreras said even the presence of prelates at the inauguration had violated the Mexican constitution and demanded an investigation.

But the issue also causes splits on the left. A leader of the Unified Socialist Party, Gilberto Rincon Gallardo, a Catholic, commented that change is needed because the present situation

"stimulates fanaticism." The Popular and Unified Socialist Parties are both members of the Democratic Front Coalition that supported Cuauhtemoc Cardenas' strong run against Salinas in the July 6 presidential election.

Salinas would be able to get the two-thirds vote he needs in congress to change the constitution if he wants to. His party controls 60 of 64 senate seats, and although it has only 260 of 500 lower house seats it can expect support from the Conservative National Action Party's 101 delegates.

Church leaders say they want a more realistic relationship between church and state, with both rejecting their 19th century prejudices.

Prigione calls the present situation one of "abuse and tolerance" — the church abuses the law and the government tolerates it.

Corripio Ahumada said the state "does not stop being a lay state by talking to the church." "We want only official recognition and total separation of church and state," said church spokesman Monsignor Genaro Alamia.



## Gallup poll will test Soviets' knowledge of geography

By Anne Imse  
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — The Soviet Union, which for decades banned accurate maps as a security risk and opinion polls as anti-communist, will allow a U.S. polling firm to survey citizens' knowledge of geography.

The Gallup poll of 1,500 to 2,000 people apparently is aimed at discovering whether Soviet citizens are as wholly ignorant as citizens of other industrialized countries of such basic facts as the location of Great Britain.

A recent international poll by Gallup and the Washington-based National Geographic Society showed that Swedes appeared to be the best educated among eight industrialized countries when it comes to maps and globes.

Adult Swedes answered 11.6 questions correct out of 16. West Germans answered 11.2 correctly, Japanese 9.7, French 9.3 and Canadians 9.2. Americans scored

8.6, Italians 7.6 and Mexicans 7.4.

The poll found, among other things, that three out of four Americans couldn't find the Persian Gulf on a map and most were even lost on Britain.

Now it appears that the same test is coming to the Soviet Union. The government newspaper Izvestia said the planned poll is a joint project of Gallup and the National Geographic Society aimed at determining the level of geographic knowledge of various countries.

### Opinions

Although the Soviets have broken with tradition and started their own public opinion polls in the past year, this apparently is the first time a foreign firm will be permitted to conduct a survey on Soviet soil, albeit in conjunction with the Soviet's institute for sociological research.

For many years, sociology was a lost science in the Soviet Union, with Marxist-Leninism claiming the subject was irrelevant because all societies inevitably will develop into communism.

Publicly distributed maps still are sketchy and deliberately distorted, with rivers shifted and whole sections of major cities excised. The Soviet government admitted to that practice several months ago and promised that new, accurate maps were forthcoming. Many Soviet citizens have difficulty reading maps as a result of these inaccuracies.

Reliance on public transportation also limits some citizens' sense of direction.

"Follow bus number 7," may be the best advice a motorist can expect.

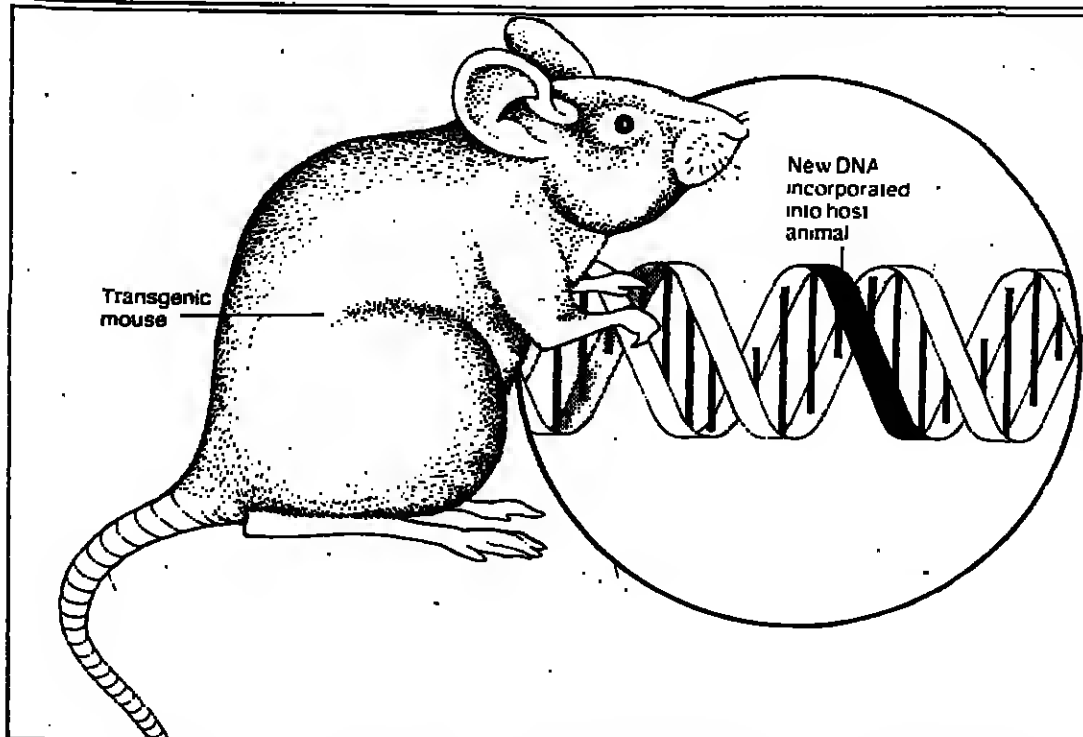
The Gallup poll also will survey Soviet consumers to determine what products they buy and what items they would like to purchase, Izvestia said.

That basic marketing question may sound a bit strange to Soviet ears. With a chronic severe shortage of nearly all consumer items, most Soviet consumers buy anything decent they find, regardless of such niceties as size, and then trade with friends.

The Gallup poll also will question Soviet consumers' familiarity with American-made products, Izvestia said.

Soviets love Western brand names and snap up shirts, sweaters, hats, almost anything imprinted with names like Adidas, Nike and Mercedes. But the genuine Western products are hard to come by, as the Soviet Union has cut imports of consumer goods as its foreign income has fallen with the price of Siberian oil and gas.

Exact wording of the Gallup survey questions is still being worked out, but it should be completed by mid-January, Izvestia said.



## Gene-altered animals enter the marketplace

By Harold M. Schmeck Jr.  
New York Times Service

THE mice, light brown females of a common laboratory variety, look ordinary. But they carry a trait that sets them apart from all other mice: They produce milk that contains a human blood substance valuable in treating heart attacks.

These mice are among hundreds of varieties of rodents and other animals developed in recent years that are called transgenic because they possess foreign genes, often from humans. Over several years, the transplantation of genes from one species to another has moved from a laboratory tour de force to a scientific and industrial tool with potentially vast implications.

Scientists are using transgenic animals as a versatile and powerful resource for a wide variety of studies. Industrialists hope to use transgenic animals to produce valuable drugs and other substances. Agricultural specialists hope to produce improved livestock.

A wide range of transgenic animals has already been pro-

duced. By recent conservative counts, there may be more than a thousand strains of transgenic mice, more than 12 varieties of transgenic pigs, several breeds of transgenic rabbits and fish, at least two breeds of rats and at least one transgenic cow with another still under development.

Only a small proportion of attempts to transplant genes are successful, a problem that hardly slows research in mice because they breed rapidly and are inexpensive, but has hampered the production of transgenics in larger species.

Many scientists see great promise in the research and its applications, but the work has also generated controversy. Some environmentalists, farmers and animal rights activists object to production of transgenic animals on any of several grounds: that use of the animals could upset agricultural economies, driving small farmers out of business; that some of the animals could upset the balance of nature, and that the practice may cause suffering in animals. Some people simply oppose genetic tinkering philosophically.

The mice that produce milk

with a slightly human tinge make tissue plasminogen activator (TPA), a human substance that dissolves blood clots. Production in the milk is believed to cause the mice no harm and makes the substance easy to harvest. Produced by other methods of genetic engineering at high cost, the substance has saved the lives of many heart attack patients.

The mice that produce TPA in their milk were developed in a collaboration between scientists at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, and Integrated Genetics, a biotechnology company in Framingham, Massachusetts. Together with Tufts University's school of veterinary medicine, the company is now in the final stage of research to produce goats that can make TPA efficiently.

Katherine Gordon, a leader of the research at Integrated Genetics, said the company hopes to have goats producing the substance in their milk next year. She estimated that a herd of 100 to 200 goats could produce enough TPA every year to supply the nation's entire demand at a far lower cost than by other methods — International Herald Tribune.



## Paloma Picasso, an artist in her own right

By Colin McDowell

PABLO PICASSO was no slouch when it came to getting his own way and neither is his daughter. Even when she was young, although she claims she was terribly shy, she was quite the little madam.

She recalls how she insisted on wearing scarlet lipstick and painting her nails for her first day at school. She always liked to do things Paloma's way.

She is still doing things Paloma's way but on a global scale now. Internationally successful figures travel endlessly and Paloma Picasso is right up there in the big league, clocking up an enormous number of air miles each year.

When I met her in London she had just flown in from Milan, was off to Paris the next day, on to New York and then back to Europe the following week. But she has energy enough to cope — and then some more. It is fuelled by a belief in the work ethic and an "iron" determination to make her own mark.

### Worker

"My father was a worker," she explains. "When he died and we started going through everything we just could not believe it. There was so much. We kept wondering how one man could do it all."

Although, I do remember noticing, even when I was young, how quick he was. His concentration level was phenomenal. He was totally unaware of everything

around him when he was working. I remember how, after lunch he would start drawing again before we had even cleared the plates into the kitchen and within seconds he would be completely absorbed in what he was doing.

Paloma Picasso does not pretend to have that degree of concentration but she hotly denies any hints that she is a dilettante designer cashing in on his daddy's name. "When I first started designing jewellery for Tiffany, I was very shocked when I learned that people were going around New York saying that I had only put my name to the range. I went mad. I said: 'This is a horrible country. What is wrong with these people? How dare they?'"

And then I thought: "This is very silly; the people who know me know the truth so forget it." In fact, she follows anything she designs right through from drawing board to launching party. "Doing a nice drawing is not enough. You have to go to the factory and work with the artists. That is when you learn. It is vital to be there watching every step. And it is good when designs have to be changed and adapted. Surmounting unexpected problems forces your creativity. Things you can do naturally are not difficult. It is the problems that force you to do better than you thought you could."

As a designer, she is taken more seriously with each new project. She is careful to define what she does: "I never call it art," she says, "because it is not."

In any case, I steer away from art, for obvious reasons. I like playing with design elements but I am a very practical person and I hate things where the design becomes more important than the function. All those kettles they do in Milan actually get in the way when you want to make cup of tea."

### Venture

Her latest venture, china and crystal designed for the German firm of Villeroy and Boch, is restrained and classical. Paloma Picasso feels that it is essentially a practical, workmanlike range although anyone popping into Harrods for it might get a shock. The soup tureen from Castellon decorated in red and black, her favourite colours, will knock you back £227.95. Practical it may be; everyday it is not.

Although she is one of the world's most fashionable women, Paloma Picasso has no interest in designing clothes. She finds them too ephemeral and prefers to design the accessories of fashion. Her jewellery range for Tiffany made the fashion world sit up but it was her perfume, Paloma, which put her on the map. At £45 for 7.5 milligrams it is not exactly a give-away and yet, Paloma is pleased to say, its sales have forced the perfume world to do a rethink.

Paloma Picasso and her husband, Rafael Lopez Sanchez, took a risk when they launched it. No one thought that it could succeed without the glamour of a major fashion-house behind it. Mr. and Mrs. Sanchez were determined to prove them wrong. They succeeded by giving the scent more aggressive marketing and publicity than anything else on the market. It was the first to be packaged in red and black. "Too strong," the pundits said, "Women like pale colours on their dressing table." At her last count, Paloma Picasso found seven perfumes packaged in red and black but, as she proudly says: "We were the first."

They broke the mould of designer-perfumes by building a campaign on Paloma's name and personality. Catherine Deneuve and Elizabeth Taylor have followed eagerly but it was "Paloma" which first hit the jackpot.

As Paloma Picasso explains: "The publicity photograph of me was very forceful and uncompromising. It could only have been me and that is what we capitalised on."

"What we were saying was: 'It is this person's perfume and nobody else's. You cannot escape it.' It is fun to be first; we took the risk and we were right."

Clothes are very important to Paloma Picasso and she has been considered one of the world's best-dressed women for many years.

She finds that she has less and less time to spend on choosing and increasingly limits her purchases to her two favourite designers, Yves Saint Laurent and Azzedine Alaïa. "I dress in an extreme way, with the red lips

and my hair," she explains, "but I like the strength of their clothes. I might add something from Geoffrey Beene or Bill Blass. They (the designers) hate it when I mix but I do not like dressing from head to toe in one designer's look."

Although she is very rich she does not normally buy couture. It is a problem of time once again. She can only spend a couple of afternoons each season choosing from the ready-to-wear.

As she says: "You do not have to wear couture to look good. When I was first chosen for the Best Dressed list it was spending nothing and buying most of my things in the Portofino Road."

Paloma Picasso's life changed when she inherited so much money on her father's death, but she insists that she remained the same. "All right," she admits, "I went from two-star to five-star hotels but if you choose the right one, in the right location, a two-star hotel can be fine. It is not necessary to be rich to live well — although, if you have less money, then you do need more time to arrange the Good Life." When you are as rich as Paloma Picasso, you tend to take it all for granted. When I asked her if her New York apartment was full of Picassos she replied simply: "Yes, thank God, and they make me feel very humble."

We talked of Arianna Huffington's book about Picasso and Paloma admitted that it was not her favourite: "I am rather upset but I cannot do anything about it. People are allowed to write what they want but it is so onerous that it is boring. I couldn't finish it. I tried to consult me. She asked my help and I was very nervous. I thought, 'I'm going to be a little bit of a pain in the neck.' I thought: 'This goes a little far, I'm going to stay away from her; she is too pushy half'."

### Memories

Her memories of her father are far removed from the monster created by Ms. Huffington: "He was a very good father as far as I was concerned. He didn't bother about school and things like that but he did care about making you imaginative. He was so alive, he was endlessly exciting. I used to sit for hours watching him paint. He never attempted to teach me. He knew that painting could not be taught. When I used to draw he never gave an opinion because he knew that you have to become your own critic."

Living with the most famous surname in the world has advantages and disadvantages and Paloma Picasso has learned to cope with both. She now feels that she is finally moving away from the "daughter of Picasso" syndrome: "I am coming out of the shadow. For years people were interested in me only because of him. To overcome this I have had to be very strong." If you don't believe her, look at that jawline. — Arab Times.

## Women and smoking

DOCTORS give warnings and the effects of smoking on the heart and lungs, as well as the risks of cancer it could cause, are well known. But what is less well known is that, with women, smoking can have serious consequences on their reproductive functions and on the lives of their babies. It takes women who smoke three or four times longer to become pregnant than women who do not smoke.

A few weeks ago at the Aquitaine Updating Symposium on Human Reproduction held in Bordeaux in the south-west of France, Dr. Jean Cohen, a gynaecologist and obstetrician in Paris, presented an overview of the different studies revealing the risks of sterility in women who smoke. All the studies presented the same results.

The study with the most striking conclusions was carried out in England on 17,000 women. It reveals that after trying for five years, 11% of women who smoke are still not pregnant," says Dr. Cohen.

"I had a heavy-smoking patient who had been trying to get pregnant for five years. We had done all the sterility tests and, apparently, everything functioned normally. One day, I said to her 'I promise you will have a baby as soon as you stop smoking.' So she stopped smoking and about three months later she was pregnant," says Dr. Cohen.

Sterility caused by smoking is thus not irreversible, but in what way does smoking have an influence on the fertility of women? According to Dr. Cohen, "It is known that smoking has an effect, but it is not yet known precisely in what way." It was a Japanese doctor, Professor Yoshinaga, who demonstrated the mechanism, after making rats inhale tobacco smoke. He noted that the number of eggs contained in the ovaries fell proportionally to the amount of tobacco smoke inhaled. That is to say that smoking attacks and destroys the oocytes. He also noted that



Cigarettes are particularly dangerous for women!

the amount of progesterone, which is the hormone needed for the implantation of the fertilised ovum, fell in the same proportion, with the inhalation of tobacco smoke. This results in the egg's being unable to embed itself correctly in the wall of the uterus.

### Fallopian connection

It is also thought that smoking has an effect on the Fallopian tubes which carry the fertilised ovum to the uterus. Smoking appears to weaken the contractions of the Fallopian tubes thereby preventing the embryo from travelling to the uterus. The embryo thus becomes blocked in the Fallopian tube in which it grows, leading to an extra-uterine pregnancy.

A study by the World Health Organisation confirms these hypotheses, as there are three times as many extra-uterine pregnancies in women who smoke than in those who do not. The different studies carried out on the damage caused by smoking confirm one another and

today, doctors, despairing at the pathological consequences they are faced with, do not hesitate to speak of smoking in general, and particularly in women, as "defying common sense." Indeed, the World Health Organisation speaks of the "extension of smoking in women over the last three decades."

Nadine Gautier  
L'actualite en France

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## U.N. body sees further drop in living standards in Africa

**ADDIS ABABA (R)** — Africa's economic growth rate nearly doubled last year but Africans grew poorer, a trend that is likely to continue in 1989, the U.N. Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) said Monday.

The continent's gross domestic product — the total value of all the goods and services it produces — rose by an estimated 2.5 per cent in 1988, up from 1.3 per cent in 1987.

That expansion lagged behind the 1988 population increase of three per cent and economic growth of a further 2.5 per cent in 1989 would also trail the population rise, the commission said in its annual review of the African economy.

That meant the decade-old trend of declining living standards would continue in 1989.

"Even this cheerless forecast may turn out to be rather optimistic if the main underlying assumption with respect to (favourable) weather conditions were to turn out to be misplaced," said Adehoyo Adedji, ECA executive secretary.

He said that with weak prices for its commodity exports, Africa had been unable to get out of a trap of spending more than it

earned to repay its debt and buy imports — a pattern leaving little money for investment to boost economic growth.

"The cumulative impact of persistent economic crisis in Africa during this decade in the face of high population growth rates has been a sustained deceleration in the standard and conditions of living of the average African," he noted.

He added: "Today, his or her per capita income is only about 80 per cent of what it was at the beginning of the decade."

Adedji said Africa's external debt rose to \$230 billion at the end of the year from \$218 billion at the end of 1987 while prices for its main exports slumped, meaning less foreign exchange was available to repay that debt.

The commission estimated that Africa's exports fell two per cent in 1988 to \$50.3 billion from \$51.4 billion in 1987. Imports were little changed at \$60.4 billion.

An increasing number of

countries are merely accumulating arrears... most of the existing debt rescheduling formulae have had the effect of merely deferring the debt service problem into an uncertain future," Adedji said.

He criticised International Monetary Fund and World Bank loan and reform programmes for indebted countries, saying they paid little attention to the need for African nations to diversify exports and become more self-sufficient.

"The transition from preoccupation with financial adjustment and deflationary budget controls to growth-oriented adjustment is nowhere near in sight for Africa," he said.

"While African countries have taken considerable political risks in embarking on socially painful adjustment programmes and policies, the expected inflow of new capital to sustain the adjustment and recovery process has, more often than not, not materialised," he emphasised.

The commission said Africa's food and agricultural output rose by 3.8 per cent in 1988 and should increase by about four per cent in 1989 if the weather remained favourable.

It said cereal production rose

an estimated 7.8 per cent in 1988 to 71.8 million tonnes, with record harvests in Morocco, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Prospects for root crops, staples in much of tropical Africa, were not bright because of drought and mealy bug infestation.

Meanwhile, international prices for African products were likely to remain depressed.

"The world market is likely to be characterised by falling prices in real terms, and oversupply for most commodities, minerals and non-minerals alike, with the external demand remaining weak and sluggish in the face of the projected decline in the industrial economies in 1989," Adedji said.

The commission said stagnant demand for coffee and cocoa would continue to squeeze the economies of such countries as the Ivory Coast, Ghana and Uganda.

Weak oil prices would affect Nigeria and other producers, while recent gains in copper prices would have a limited effect because producers such as Zaire and Zambia had supply problems, with their production falling an estimated 15 per cent in 1988.

### ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

#### Egypt hikes Suez Canal charges

**CAIRO (R)** — Ships using the Suez Canal in 1989 have to pay between four and 12.5 per cent more in transit tolls, Canal Authority Chairman Ezzat Adel said. The increase, the first since 1987, took effect Jan. 1. Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) quoted him as saying in the Suez Canal city of Ismailia. He said the rise would bring in \$96 million in extra revenue. He put earnings in 1988 at a record \$1.27 billion. In October, Adel said the tolls would be hiked up to eight per cent.

#### Minox goes into receivership

**GIESSEN, West Germany (AP)** — Minox, a well-known maker of small cameras, has gone into receivership in an attempt to put the ailing firm back on its feet after cutting 200 employees, the court-appointed official administering the move has said, Wilhelm Schaaf, who is overseeing the receivership, also said the remaining 335 employees had received new month-long contracts which he hopes to be able to extend. Minox, located in Giessen about 60 kilometres north of Frankfurt, has filed for bankruptcy and claims 45 million marks (\$25.7 million) in debt. Schaaf, in a telephone interview with the Associated Press, said he hoped to make the company "economically manageable" within the next year, "then I hope I can find someone else to take it over."

#### Mexico begins daily devaluation of peso

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — The first day of 1989 brought a controlled downward slide in the value of the peso. The devaluation is part of an inflation-fighting programme that kept the currency steady throughout 1988. The daily devaluation of one peso to U.S. dollar that began Sunday is scheduled to last through the end of July. On Dec. 23, the last banking day of 1988, a dollar was worth 2,230 pesos. On July 31, a dollar will buy 2,472 pesos, the government news agency Notimex has said. President Carlos Salinas De Gortari has said the controlled devaluation is designed to give investors a better return on pesos than foreign currencies. Salinas announced the devaluation and other modifications in the inflation-fighting programme in mid-December, shortly after taking office. He also announced an eight per cent rise in the minimum wage, which had remained the same for nine months. The year-old economic programme, which froze the currency exchange rate, wages and many prices, is credited with more than halving the record inflation of 159 per cent that Mexico suffered in 1987.

#### UAE to expand share trading in March

**ABU DHABI (R)** — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) will open its share market to citizens of other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states from March 1, a UAE minister was quoted as saying. State minister for financial and industrial affairs Ahmad Al Tayar told the Emirates News Agency WAM that the move followed wide-ranging economic agreements at last year's GCC summit in Bahrain. "GCC citizens will be allowed to set up, own and transfer the ownership of shares in the UAE," Tayar said. The six-nation GCC links Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman and the UAE.

#### Zaireans push to punish Belgium

**KINSHASA, Zaire (AP)** — Parliamentarians in this Central African state have called for the suspension of debt repayments to Belgium, the former colonial power, and suspension or breaking of relations. Members also urged the government to renounce the 28-year-old cooperation treaty with Brussels, alleging that Zaire, formerly the Belgian Congo, had been the victim of the agreement, while Belgium had profited disproportionately. The debate called for the reevaluation of all agreements signed with Belgium and the submission of contentious matters to the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

## Test finds economic illiteracy rampant among U.S. students

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A survey found that only one-third of America's high school students were able to define simple concepts such as inflation or profits, suggesting that economic illiteracy is rampant among the young.

Results of the survey, involving 8,205 11th and 12th-grade students (those about ages 15 to 18) in public and private high schools in 33 states, were released last week at a news conference featuring Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board from 1979 to 1987. The government agency sets U.S. monetary policy.

The survey found only 34 per cent able to correctly define profits on a multiple-choice exam as "revenues minus costs."

And just 39 per cent selected the correct definition of gross national product: "The market value of the nation's output of

final goods and services."

The news is "not good if you believe that a basic understanding of our economic system is important if this country is indeed to be effective in what everyone realises is a period of global competition," Volcker said in a statement.

Students across the country took a 40-minute, 46-question multiple choice "test of economic literacy" in May 1988, said William Walstad, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln economics professor who developed the exam with John Soper, an economics professor at John Carroll University in Cleveland.

On average, students correctly answered only about 40 per cent of the test items but were even weaker on simple questions pertaining to inflation, the effects of tariffs on trade, and the impact of

investment on economic growth, Walstad said in a telephone interview.

The survey was sponsored by the New York-based Joint Council on Economic Education, a non-profit, nationwide coalition aimed at promoting economics instruction from kindergarten through high school.

The exam was the first to document the apparent economic illiteracy of a majority of U.S. high school students. Economics thus joins a growing list of subject areas including writing skills, geography, foreign language, science and math where recent tests have shown U.S. students achieving at dismal levels.

Japan requires all high school students to take at least a semester of economics, Walstad said. But only 28 of the 50 U.S. states require economics in the curricu-

lum in some form, and just 15 mandate economics as a graduation requirement.

"All too often economics is simply left out of the list of required subjects in recent calls for educational reform," Walstad said.

Compounding the problem, few classroom teachers are equipped to teach it.

"Teachers are the first to realise that they have inadequate background in the subject," Roxanne Bradshaw, secretary-treasurer of the National Education Association, told reporters.

Texas, for example, recently established a high school economics requirement, but only five per cent of secondary teachers in that state have ever taken an economics course, Bradshaw said.

## Nigeria looks to small farmers, industrialists for non-oil wealth

**LAGOS (R)** — Nigeria, struggling to reduce its dependence on imports paid for with foreign exchange earnings from oil sales, has launched an austerity budget for 1989 which seeks to "channel scarce resources into agriculture and small scale industry."

Addressing the nation on radio and television, President Ibrahim Babangida said small farmers and manufacturers, using and producing local materials, were the centre-piece of the government's economic plan.

But economists said the stringent measures in a budget which had to cope with a burgeoning balance of payments deficit and huge foreign debts as well as mass unemployment and a surging cost of living would make the government's goals hard to achieve.

Babangida said nearly three years of structural adjustment had been extremely painful for individuals and groups used to opulence built on oil riches, but now that oil prices had crashed there could be no return to "the old profligate ways."

"This administration is determined to continue with the goal of diversification of the economy in 1989 so as to make us less dependent on the oil sector," he said.

Babangida said oil still accounted for at least 80 per cent of the country's foreign exchange earnings.

Assuming a price of \$14 a barrel and production at 1.355 million barrels a day, oil would contribute \$4.22 billion to revenue, in the coming year, with

other government earnings adding \$1.14 billion and private sector exports bringing in \$1.32 billion.

These figures compare with Nigerian earnings at the height of the oil boom of up to \$26 billion.

Nigerian economists said the government's measures, which included raising petrol prices by 43 per cent for private motorists, eliminating a range of fringe benefits for public employees, trimming spending by ministries and restricting money supply and credit growth would help to control the country's deficit.

But they doubted measures to encourage investment in agriculture and small scale manufacturing would make much headway in an atmosphere of economic stringency.

"This is a budget which puts on

the brakes," said a senior economist with a major Nigerian conglomerate.

"It cuts back on disposable income in both private and public sectors, tightens credit and allocates a massive and probably unsustainable proportion of funds to debt servicing," he said.

Babangida said the budget foresaw recurrent expenditure rising to 20.81 billion naira (\$3.93 billion at the pre-budget official rate) from 15.71 billion naira (\$2.60 billion) in 1988, mainly because of an allocation of 8.82 billion (\$1.66 billion) for interest payments on external loans.

A further 4.21 billion naira (\$790 million) was earmarked for domestic loan interest and 1.2 billion (\$226 million) for public debt charges out of capital expenditure.

## Soviet Union to ban wide range of exports

**MOSCOW (AP)** — The Soviet Union soon will ban the export of consumer goods ranging from caviar to children's shoes and will limit travellers to about \$140 worth of souvenirs, the official news agency TASS said Sunday.

The radical changes in export and customs regulations evidently are aimed at remedying an extreme shortage of consumer goods in the Soviet Union and assuaging citizens angry over the scarcity of such basic items as soap and windshield wipers.

TASS said the restrictions approved by the Council of Ministers will take effect Feb. 1 and last until the end of 1990. It did not give a date for the decision.

The brief announcement limiting exports of consumer goods to 100 rubles per person, or about \$140 at the current exchange rate, specifically included tourists. But it did not explain the effect of the ruling on the Soviet Union's attempts to earn scarce hard currency by selling the best caviar, fur hats and coats, vodka and souvenirs in stores that require dollars, pounds or other freely convertible money.

TASS said it will be forbidden to export televisions, refrigerators, freezers, washing and sewing machines, children's clothing and shoes, coffee and caviar.

Coffee is not grown in the Soviet Union, and the import duty is up to \$15 a pound.

The announcement also said customs duties will climb to a range of 20 per cent to 100 per cent of the retail price on vacuum cleaners, mixers, coffee-grinders, irons, radios, cameras, automobile parts and other items. It was not clear if this meant import or export duties.

Export limits were imposed recently in Czechoslovakia and several other East European countries after complaints that tourists from neighbouring socialist nations were stripping their stores bare of consumer goods.

The growing practice prompted a Soviet economist, Marina Pavlova-Silvanskaya, to warn in Soviet Culture Sunday of an impending "trade war" among socialist countries.

Many Russians travel to Eastern Europe on shopping trips, and Pavlova-Silvanskaya herself reminisced about trips to East Germany and Poland. She said her boss insisted that "the programme had to include a visit to some institution named for Lenin, lest the Germans or Poles think the citizens of the nation of the Great October revolution are coming to shop."

None of the socialist countries of Eastern Europe has fully convertible currencies, and they trade with each other based on exchange rates that often do not cover the exporting country's cost of production, much less a profit. Pavlova-Silvanskaya noted that capitalist countries don't find an invasion of shoppers a problem — in fact, just the reverse. On Nov. 7, a holiday in Hungary, 100,000 Hungarians went to Austria and spent \$42 million in hard currency, she wrote.

Rather than limit exports, the Austrians responded to the horde of shoppers with advertisements in Hungarian newspapers, inviting them back on their next day off. Pavlova-Silvanskaya noted.

#### Oil production

In another economic field, a London-based oil industry consultant has said that Soviet oil output slumped between July and September in 1988 casting doubt on whether last year's national oil production target could have been reached.

Petroleum Economics Ltd said in its quarterly bulletin "Soviet Energy Developments" that the reasons for the fall in the third quarter were unclear.

"It does seem that Soviet oil output fell by over 100,000 bar-

rels per day (b/d) during the third quarter, showing the first year-on-year decrease for about three years," it said.

In the 18 months to mid-1988, Soviet oil output had been running slightly above target.

"It is doubtful whether this year's (1988) target level of just under 12.6 million b/d can be achieved, unless output has rebounded during the fourth quarter," the bulletin said.

It said there has been reports that oil output from Siberia was hit by oilfield equipment shortages. It was also possible that ethnic unrest has affected output from the oil-producing area of Azerbaijan, it added.

Official Soviet oil production statistics have not been published since August. The August data showed a fall to some 12.3 million b/d, the lowest level since April

1986 and about 500,000 b/d below the May 1987 peak, the report said.

"Although there are indications that output recovered slightly in September to about 12.5 million b/d (the same as in June), it was still about two per cent below a year earlier. As a result the third quarter average was over one per cent lower than during the third quarter of 1987," the report said.

There have also been problems in other areas in the energy sector.

"There is no doubt that the installation of new electricity generating capacity has fallen well behind plan — it is now possible to identify up to 20,000 megawatts of nuclear capacity which has been shut down or cancelled" in the aftermath of the accident at the Chernobyl power station, the report said.

## Flurry of bailouts stirs concern

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Federal regulators rescued 217 savings-and-loan institutions in 1988, leaving Congress and President-elect George Bush to figure out the best way to pay the \$38 billion bill.

Theoretically, the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, which regulates the industry, expects enough income over the next 30 years — up to \$50 billion — to cover the cost.

But analysts and many members of Congress say that despite Bush's vehement pledge not to raise taxes, taxpayers will have to foot the bill for the largest number of failures and rescues since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Savings-and-loans are distinct from commercial banks. They developed as depositor-owned institutions whose purposes were to

encourage saving and to make mortgage loans.

The investment strategy once centred on the interest paid on mortgages, but regulatory measures under President Ronald Reagan gave them the opportunity to pursue new strategies, and many institutions made ill-advised investments that led to insolvency.

"We still don't know the magnitude of the savings and loan crisis," Senate Republican leader Bob Dole said Sunday.

The regulators have about 350 more insolvency cases to handle. And, as of last Sept. 30, another 150 savings institutions were sliding toward insolvency with capital levels below 1.5 per cent.

Estimates of the total cost of paying for the mess run as high as \$112 billion, a figure reported in December.

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### AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday Jan. 2, 1989 Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	476.1	478.0	French franc	78.5	78.9
Pound Sterling	889.3	893.6	Japanese yen (for 100)	380.9	383.8
Deutschemark	349.1	350.3	Dutch guilder	238.1	239.3
Swiss franc	317.0	318.6	Swedish crown	77.7	78.1
			Italian lira (for 100)	36.4	36.6
			Belgian franc (for 100)	127.9	128.5

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## English soccer standings

LONDON (R) — English League First Division soccer table after Sunday's match between Manchester United and Liverpool.

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Arsenal	18	11	4	3	40	20	37
Norwich	19	10	7	2	28	19	37
Millwall	18	8	6	4	29	21	30
Everton	18	8	6	4	25	17	30
Liverpool	19	7	7	5	23	16	28
Manchester United	19	6	9	4	25	17	27
Coventry	19	7	6	6	22	20	27
Derby	18	7	5	6	20	14	26
Southampton	19	6	8	5	32	31	26
Tottenham	19	6	7	6	30	28	25
Nottingham Forest	19	5	10	4	23	25	25
Queen's Park Rangers	19	6	5	8	22	19	23
Aston Villa	19	5	8	6	28	30	23
Wimbledon	18	6	4	8	21	26	22
Middlesbrough	19	6	4	9	23	31	22
Sheff Wednesday	18	5	6	7	15	21	21
Luton	19	4	8	7	17	22	20
Charlton	19	3	8	8	19	31	17
Newcastle	19	4	5	10	16	34	17
West Ham	19	3	5	11	15	33	14

## United shatters Liverpool

LONDON (R) — Manchester United stormed from behind to break English League soccer champions Liverpool 3-1 Sunday.

In a pulsating second half which saw four goals in seven minutes United brought a new year message to their faithful fans that the title is not beyond their grasp.

The victory lifted them five places to sixth position, just one point and one place behind Liverpool.

United, playing in front of a 45,000 crowd, had the better of a goalless first half, but fell behind to a 70th minute goal by England winger John Barnes.

They hit back within a minute. Brian McClair twisting back and scoring with a fine volley from 10 metres, then went ahead four minutes later through Mark Hughes.

The Welsh international shrugged off a suspicion of hand ball to fire diagonally home.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

## Schultz shows her mettle

BRISBANE (AP) — Ninth seeded Dutch teenager Brenda Schultz had to struggle for almost three hours Monday to overcome Emmanuelle Derly of France 6-7 (7-9), 6-3, 7-6 (7-5) and advance to the second round of the \$150,000 Danone Australian women's Hardcourt Tennis championships. Schultz, 16, who has improved her world ranking from 150th to 40th over the past 12 months, stayed calm to take out the final set tiebreaker in a dramatic centre court match at the Milton Tennis Centre.

## Thometz makes speedy comeback

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Speed skater Nick Thometz, who a year ago during the U.S. Olympic trials was battling a blood disorder that sapped his strength, is healthy and happy again. Thometz captured the United States international speedskating association sprint title Saturday by winning the 1,000 metres and taking second in the 500 metres. During Friday's first day of competition, he won the 500 metres and was second in the 1,000. "I'm a lot more confident in my skating. With the world sprints two months away, I've got a lot of time to work on things and have good preparation," said Thometz, who was bothered last year by a low blood platelet count. "It's nice to be a national champion. I feel like I skated four pretty good, solid races," he said. Thometz will be joined on the four-man U.S. men's team for the world sprint championships Feb. 25-26 at Heerenveen, the Netherlands, by Olympic silver medalist Eric Flaim, defending world sprint champion Dan Jansen and Olympian David Cruikshank. The women's team will be headed by Olympic gold medalist Bonnie Blair, who won both the 500 metre and 1,000 metre races Friday and Saturday at the Wisconsin Olympic rink.

## Joyner voted champion of champions

PARIS (R) — Triple Olympic gold medalist Florence Griffith Joyner has been elected the 1988 champion of champions by an international jury of sports writers, French sports daily L'Equipe said Monday. American Griffith Joyner, who won gold in the 100, 200 and 400 metres at the Seoul games, beat East German swimmer Kristin Otto, winner of six Olympic titles, into second place. West Germany's world number one tennis player Steffi Graf was third. It was the first time the top three places in the poll had gone to women. Last year's winner was a man, Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson.

## Vatanen breaks Ickx dominance in Niger

PARIS (R) — Finn Ari Vatanen won the fourth stage of the Paris-Dakar rally according to provisional results as the race moved Sunday into the West African state of Niger. Peugeot team-mate Jacky Ickx, who has dominated the race so far, was second. The 43-year-old Belgian, winner of the event in 1983, kept his position at the top of the overall standings. Various snags hit the race as competitors covered the 577 kms from Toumou on the Libyan frontier to Dirkou in Niger. The motorcycle part was postponed after refuelling problems and the cars faced desert winds of up to 90 kph.

## Real Madrid under pressure

MADRID (R) — Barcelona kept up the pressure on Spanish soccer league leaders Real Madrid with a 3-1 win away to Atletico Madrid Sunday. The win ensured second-placed Barcelona stayed just two points behind champions Real, who had pulled off a 4-1 away win to Espanol Saturday night. Atletico were in confident form in the first half and went 1-0 up in the 20th minute when Baltazar De Morais scored from a penalty, his 18th goal this season. But Roberto Fernandez equalised in the 53rd minute, heading a low ball from a cross by Eusebio Sacristan, and Atletico began to lose their grip on the game. England's Gary Lineker outwitted Atletico goalkeeper Abel Resino in the 64th minute, drawing him out for a shot into the empty goal and Jose Maria Bakero headed home another fine cross by Sacristan four minutes before the final whistle. Atletico slipped to fifth place while Sevilla moved up to third, five points behind Barcelona, after beating Murcia 3-0 at home with two goals by Austrian Anton Foster and one by Ramon Vazquez.

## Scots surprise Soviet basketball stars

LONDON (R) — Scottish basketball team Murray Livingston sprang a major surprise by beating the Soviet Union national side 72-66 in the semifinals of the world invitation club tournament at Crystal Palace Sunday. Livingston controlled the possession and tempo of the match through their American playmaker Victor Fleming. The Russians, invited in the tournament as part of their European tour, were unable to score for the first four minutes of the game and could not recover from a 15-0 deficit. Livingston coach Ian Gordon said: "It came down to defence and hard work. We just tried not to become over-awed. We knew the hard and physical game the Russians play suits us and we were able to equal them for strength. To beat them is a second Christmas."

## Conference play-off semi-finals

## Bills triumph over Oilers 17-10

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (R) — The Buffalo Bills behind a strong team effort beat the Houston Oilers 17-10 in the National Football League's American conference semifinal playoff game Sunday.

The Bills will play their first American conference championship game in 23 years when it travels to Cincinnati to play the Bengals next Sunday. The Bengals beat the Bills 35-21 in a regular season game this year. Buffalo quarterback Jim Kelly, criticised recently for not producing enough touchdowns, came out throwing and finished the game with completions on 19 of 33 attempted passes for 244 yards. But again he failed to throw a touchdown pass.

After a scoreless first quarter, Buffalo's Leonard Smith blocked a Houston punt to give the Bills the ball at midfield. Buffalo, 12-4 in regular season play, marched downfield with the help of a 16-yard run by Thurman Thomas and a scoring plunge by Robb Riddick from about a yard out.

Houston came back with a 35-yard field goal to make the score 7-3, but failed on another attempted field goal just before the half ended when Buffalo's Bruce Bennett blocked a 39-yard effort.

Early in the third quarter Houston intercepted a Kelly pass, setting up a 31-yard Houston field goal try. But the kick was wide, appearing to have been tipped by a Buffalo defender.

Immediately afterward, Buffalo drove downfield from its own 26-yard line in score when Thomas — the game's leading rusher with 75 yards on seven carries — ran it on a 10-yard burst up the middle to give the Bills a 14-3 lead.

Despite winning, the Bills offense sputtered several times as it had in losing the last three of four games in the regular season.

Buffalo missed two opportunities to score in the first quarter — one on a bad snap from centre and again when the Oilers stopped them with just inches to go for a first down on Houston's two-yard line.

The Bills were stymied again after Kelly threw a 53-yard pass to Andre Reed to the Houston four-yard line late in the third quarter. Buffalo elected not to attempt a field goal as the fourth quarter began and failed to score when Houston once again stopped them just inches short of the goal.

But shortly afterward the Bills' Mark Kelso intercepted a Warren Moon pass to give Buffalo possession on the Houston 18-yard line.

seasons, will travel to Chicago to play the Bears on Sunday for the championship of the National Football Conference and a trip to the Superbowl on Jan. 22.

The Buffalo Bills, winner over the Houston Oilers 17-10 earlier Sunday, will play the Cincinnati Bengals next Sunday for the right to represent the American Football Conference in the Superbowl.

One of the keys to San Francisco's victory was its strong defence, which kept pressure on Minnesota quarterback Wade Wilson throughout the game, sacking him six times.

The 49ers defence also throttled Minnesota star receiver Anthony Carter — who set an NFL playoff pass-reception record of 227 yards against San Francisco in the playoffs last January. The 49ers limited him to just three catches for 45 yards Sunday.

San Francisco's running game was spearheaded by Roger Craig who scored two touchdowns — one an 80-yard gallop — and churned out 135 yards on 21 carries. He also caught three passes for 26 yards.

Jerry Rice caught all three of the touchdown passes from Montana, who completed 16 of 27 passes for 178 yards.

It was an especially sweet victory before the hometown crowd of 61,848 for Montana who was the losing quarterback against the Vikings last January and had suffered three consecutive post-season losses.

Minnesota opened the game's scoring in the first quarter when Chuck Nelson kicked a 47-yard goal. San Francisco answered with a two-yard touchdown pass from Montana to Rice to take a lead they never relinquished.

Just as the first quarter ended, Ronnie Lott intercepted Wilson and Rice followed with a 21-yard run on a reverse. Montana then hit Rice with a five-yard touchdown pass. The extra point gave the 49ers a 14-3 lead.

In the final minute of the first half, Montana directed the 49ers 70 yard in 10 plays, capping the drive with another touchdown pass to Rice, who finished the game with five receptions for 61 yards.

In the second half the Vikings rallied for two touchdowns in the third quarter on a five-yard pass to Hassan Jones. But after the extra point was missed, the Vikings appeared listless and essentially were out of the game from that point.

The 49ers picked up two more touchdowns when Craig scored on a four-yard run and his 80-yard stunner.

Minnesota's top runner was Allen Rice who gained 20 yards on five carries. Wilson completed 23 passes in 47 attempts for 255 yards for the Vikings.

The victory gave San Francisco coach Bill Walsh his 100th career win against 63 losses and one tie.

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## 'Amerikanski futbol' hits Moscow

MOSCOW (AP) — U.S. football fans these days are thinking mainly about the upcoming Rose Bowl game between Southern California and Michigan. A few Soviet football fans are aware of the granddaddy of bowl games, but the glacial pace is what matters to them.

Come Sept. 2, the USSR will get its first taste of "Amerikanski futbol" as Southern California's (USC) Trojans play Illinois in their 1989 season opener at Dynamo stadium in Moscow.

The game, fittingly named after Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's openness policy, may not mean much to the average Soviet sports fan. But they still say they're looking forward to the Glasnost bowl, the first ever football game in the East bloc.

"I've watched football on the news programmes on TV and I read about the game in Robert Penn Warren's novel 'All King's Garden,' which was translated into Russian," said Alexander Benzin, the head of Dynamo stadium.

"I like football and it will be great fun to watch two great teams play here in Moscow," Benzin said. "People are interested in new sports."

And even if the game will be broadcast live on Soviet television I'm sure it will be a sellout," Benzin said. "People are interested in new sports."

Anatoly Tarasov, the architect of Soviet ice hockey who led the big red machine to nine world championship crowns and three Olympic titles during 13 years as the Soviet national team coach and was the first European in hockey's hall of fame, is another football fan.

"But I will see the game. If the play is good, then it's nice," said Ilin.

During a trip to the United States in the 1960s, Tarasov said, "Football is a great physical sport and it would be an excellent sport for our soldiers."

Football has not been introduced to the Red Army yet, but it may have a future in the Soviet Union.

"Many Soviet athletes like physical sports like hockey and boxing," said sportswriter Igor Kuprin. "I think many of them would also like to try football if they could."

Kuprin said football used to be described as a brutal sport before glasnost. Now it's different. Soviet sports magazines sometimes publish stories about football, Kuprin said.

Sergei Ilin, 83, a maintenance worker at Dynamo stadium and a former captain of the Dynamo soccer team during his playing career 1930-1941, says he doesn't know anything about football. "But I will see the game. If the play is good, then it's nice," said Ilin.

## Czechs beat Australians in Hopman Cup final

PERTH (R) — Hana Mandlikova was upstaged by her former teammates when she and an ailing Pat Cash lost 2-0 to Czechoslovakia in the final of the inaugural Hopman Cup mixed team tennis event Sunday.

Prague-born Mandlikova, granted Australian citizenship a year ago, went down 6-4, 6-3 to Helena Sukova and lost again when she and Cash were beaten 6-2, 6-4 in the doubles by Sukova and Olympic champion Miloslav Mecir.

The two wins secured the \$85,500 U.S. first prize for Czechoslovakia who had to do no more for their money with Cash pulling out of the final singles with Mecir.

"Pat was not feeling well at all," said Mandlikova. "He was dizzy and almost fainted at one time."

Mandlikova is still feeling her way after a six-month injury layoff and was unable to mount a serious challenge to Sukova, who three weeks ago led Czechoslovakia to victory in the federation Cup in Melbourne.

She did show glimpses of the form that was brought her four Grand Slam titles during the eighties but her serving again let her down. She dropped six straight service games from midway through the first set.

## Peanuts



## Mutt'n' Jeff

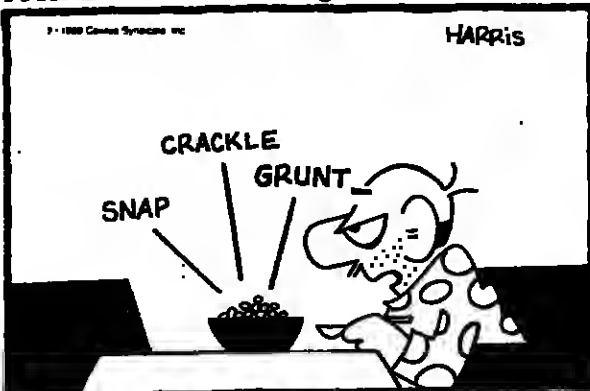


## Andy Capp



## THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



## JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ROLYG

ERNIL

BLABED

GOFTER



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GUESS AFTER KIDNAP ROBBER

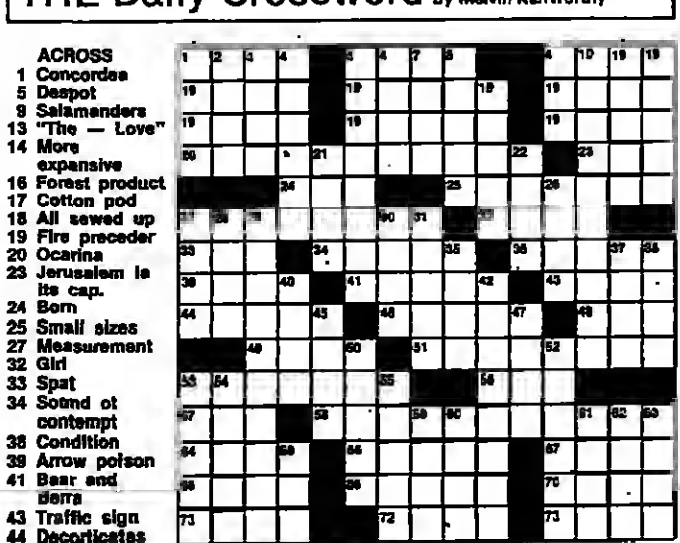
Answer: The longer that sergeant stayed in the Army

THE "RANKER" HE GOT

## HOROSCOPE NOT

## RECEIVED

## THE Daily Crossword by Melvin Kanworthy



ACROSS  
1 Concordia  
2 Deep  
3 Salamanders  
13 "The Love"  
14 More  
15 expansive  
16 Forest product  
17 Cotton pod  
18 All sewed up  
19 Fire precursor  
20 Ocarina  
21 Jerusalem is its cap.  
24 Born  
25 Small sizes  
27 Measurement  
32 Girl  
33 Spit  
34 Sound of contempt  
35 Condition  
36 Arrow poison  
41 Bear and  
42 Weta  
43 Traffic sign  
44 Decorations  
45 Water lily  
46 Orange or lemon  
47 Makes lace  
48 Bullfighter  
49 Meat slices  
50 Sea or Square  
51 Fuss  
52 Certain dish  
54 Upbeat  
56 Pianist  
57 Claude  
58 Pita bread  
59 Sandwich  
60 Aware of  
61 Carl or  
62 Francine  
63 "the valley of death"  
70 Annoying  
71 Rolling plain  
72 Cattle hedge barrier

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6 Chinese pref.  
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8 Summary  
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10 Certain dish  
11 Abrupt  
12 Violator  
13 Arabian shrub  
14 Social functions  
15 Elevator man  
16 Advertiser's suit  
17 Nerd's kin  
18 "Pompeii" girl  
19 Fondness for sandy  
20 Unruffled  
21 Plant disease  
22 Jojo Broz  
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# New Sri Lankan government sworn in amid continued strife

**KANDY (Agencies)** — Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa, vowing to restore peace and eliminate poverty from Sri Lanka, was installed Monday as the island's new president in this sacred Buddhist city.

Tens of thousands of people chanted "Sadhu, Sadhu" as Premadasa, 64, was sworn in by the chief justice Parinda Ranasinghe at the historic Buddhist temple in the former capital, 115 kilometres northeast of Colombo.

He was installed at 10.38 a.m., a time deemed auspicious by astrologers, at the temple's octagonal-shaped balcony from where ancient Sri Lankan kings addressed the people.

Premadasa, replacing president Junius Jayewardene, who retires from public life after nearly 50 years in politics, took office as

Tamils, who are mostly Hindu, comprise 18 per cent of the island's 16 million people. They claim they are denied jobs and education by the predominantly Buddhist Sinhalese, who make up 75 per cent of the population and control the government.

India announced Sunday that two battalions of its 50,000 troops would be withdrawn in the next few days at Premadasa's request.

The Tamil Tigers, the most powerful separatist guerrilla group, Monday vowed to continue their fight against the Indian forces who were sent to the island to help crush their rebellion.

Eelam

"The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam pledged to con-

tinue its struggle against the Indian occupation forces until the total withdrawal from the Tamil homeland," the group said in a statement.

Indian Ambassador Jyotindra Nath Dixit told reporters up to 3,000 soldiers would be withdrawn in the next few days.

He said Premadasa made the request December 21, two days after election.

Troops were sent to Sri Lanka under an agreement signed in July 1987 by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and outgoing Sri Lanka President Junius Jayewardene, aimed at ending the Tamil rebellion.

Dixit said Gandhi and Jayewardene discussed the agreement and the troop withdrawal Saturday during their visit to Islamabad for the meeting of South Asian leaders.

## President rejects mercy petition

**NEW DELHI (AP)** — India's president Tuesday rejected the mercy petition of Kehar Singh, one of two Sikhs condemned to death for the 1984 assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, news reports said.

Press Trust of India and United News of India said President Ramaswamy Venkataraman refused to pardon or grant any relief to Singh.

The agencies gave no reason for the rejection, the last avenue left for a condemned man to save



Indira Gandhi

his life. With the rejection, UNI said, the stay against Kehar Singh's execution has been vacated. In India condemned prisoners are hanged.

## Tibetans march through Lhasa

**LHASA (R)** — Two hundred Tibetan students and teachers marched peacefully through the city centre, foreign diplomats believe the death toll is higher. Reports from Westerners in Tibet say that 50 people, including eight Buddhist nuns, have been arrested since the clash.

The sources said six plainclothes police detained American John Sevcik, pushing him into a jeep and holding a revolver to his head. His camera and film, along with the cameras and films of two European tourists, were also confiscated.

The marchers carried four banners, calling on the authorities to fulfil a promise made in July 1987 to use Tibetan as the language for all Tibetan affairs. For Tibetans to be able to follow their own customs and lifestyle and for weapons not to be used against demonstrators.

At least one person — a Buddhist monk waving the Tibetan flag of independence — was killed December 10 when police opened fire on demonstrators in

the city centre. Foreign diplomats believe the death toll is higher. Reports from Westerners in Tibet say that 50 people, including eight Buddhist nuns, have been arrested since the clash.

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## Psychological barriers, drugs SAARC obstacles

**ISLAMABAD (R)** — South Asian leaders have set their countries on a new path to fight the scourge of drugs and poverty while acknowledging that "windows of the mind" need opening to ensure lasting progress.

The seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was boosted by the first meeting of the young prime ministers of India and Pakistan at its fourth annual summit from December 29-31.

However, the region containing a fifth of the world's population still needs to break some of the barriers that have sprung up over decades of conflict and distrust.

"The most important of these barriers are the psychological barriers," said Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, 44, in his closing address to the leaders of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

"It is the windows of the mind that first need uncurtaining," said the leader of the group's largest nation.

In three days of talks, including one session lasting more than six hours at a retreat in Islamabad's scenic Margalla hills, the seven vowed to fight the drug trade and alleviate the hardships of the poor by the year 2000.

The so-called "Islamabad Declaration" expressed "grave concern" over drug abuse, particu-

larly among young people. It declared 1989 "SAARC year for combating drug abuse and drug trafficking" and said the leaders "recognised the need for urgent and effective measures to eradicate this evil."

Bhutto, with a combination of charm and resolve, gave impetus to the organisation which in three years of existence had few concrete achievements to its credit.

Bangladesh President Hussain Muhammad Ershad said in closing remarks that the summit had brought home the need to improve the lives of the common man.

Addressing Bhutto, he said: "You have injected fresh insight, new insight and a dynamism that has vitalised our efforts."

The kings, presidents and prime ministers set out a project called "SAARC 2000" — a basic needs perspective.

"They were conscious that all South Asian countries faced problems in areas such as food, clothing, shelter, education, primary health care, population planning and environmental protection," the declaration said.

Ershad, conveying the importance of the project will carry for the region's impoverished millions, said it "could radically transform the living conditions and quality of life of all the peoples of the region."

## Chinese, African officials attempt to quell uproar

**PEKING (R)** — African students should continue studying in China despite anti-black violence in Nanking and racial tension in the eastern city of Hangzhou, Chinese officials and African diplomats said Monday.

The diplomats said the training provided low-cost technical skills needed for development and that students would be sent here as long as China was willing to help.

A senior African diplomat, who asked not to be identified, said that representatives from several African embassies in Peking would go to Nanking later this week to help resolve the problems that led to the violence.

"We must work with our friends, the Chinese, to settle the problems," he said. "We have good and positive co-operation with China which provides excellent conditions for our students despite its huge population."

He and other diplomats praised Peking for offering scholarships to African students, noting that training in Western countries would be much costlier.

They said that they believed most African countries benefiting

from the scholarship programmes would continue to send students to China.

Racial violence forced more than 130 Africans to flee their dormitories at three colleges in the east China city of Nanking a week ago.

Thirteen people were injured in a clash between Africans and Chinese at Hehai University on Christmas Eve and one African student has been detained by police, according to the official media.

Thousands of Chinese students, some shouting racial slurs, took to the streets of Nanking on four nights last week.

In Hangzhou, about 250 kilometres to the east, African students boycotted class and briefly took a professor hostage in protest over allegations by university employees that they were infected with the fatal disease AIDS.

"China admits more students from African countries than from other countries, indicating the importance attached to developing Sino-African ties," the New China News Agency said.



George Bush

## Bush to declare himself elected

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — On Wednesday, Vice President George Bush will enter the House of Representatives and announce he has been elected president, 426 to 111, fulfilling a ritual that has been called constitutional Russian Roulette.

Bush's declaration to a joint session of Congress will come after the counting of the only ballots that really count under the constitution, those cast by the 538 members of the electoral college.

Yes, it's true that Bush won 53.4 per cent of the popular votes, defeating his Democratic rival, Michael Dukakis, who captured 45.6 per cent. It's true he got more than 7 million votes more than his opponent.

But it survived, he said, because it was a "Socialist revolution," a Marxist-Leninist revolution, which would pull through because it had a responsibility to the Third World to forge ahead.

"Socialism or death, Marxism-Leninism or death," he shouted at the end of a speech lasting an hour and 45 minutes.

Castro, who was often interrupted by applause, devoted most of his speech to recalling historical details of Jan. 1, 1959 — a day he called "historic and unforgettable for future generations" — and of the run-up to the triumph of the rebel army over the dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista.

Castro has used Soviet economic aid — estimated at \$5 billion annually — to help build schools and hospitals. But the Soviets say he has neglected industrial development, prompting speculation whether the displeasure will lead to Soviet aid cutbacks.

Castro is an advocate of Socialist purity and opposes any policy that borrows from capitalism. He has spoken scornfully of the political and social reforms proposed by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, saying the "consequences would be hard" for Cuba if the Soviet experiment encounters "serious difficulties."

"So we may be in for difficulties coming from the enemy camp and difficulties coming from the camp of our own friends," he said last month.

The recent Cuban commitment to withdraw its 50,000 troops from Angola by 1991 presents another step toward scaling back Cuba's involvement in international conflicts. Cuba has given military support to many countries.

Castro said his company had no responsibility for the actual operation of the outing, which was to take revelers to a spot off Copacabana beach to watch a New Year's fireworks.

"We are simply ticket sellers," Castro said.

Few other details about the passengers, crewmen and even a samba band on board were unavailable.

The Bateau Mouche tipped over and sank as it was leaving Guanabara bay, crossing a choppy zone behind Sugar Loaf and heading for the open Atlantic Ocean.

Various reports have said 130 to 150 people were on the 100-capacity boat at the time of the accident.

The double-decked sightseeing boat Bateau Mouche was under 20 metres of water near Sugar Loaf Mountain, a picturesque Rio landmark close to downtown.

Chief Irineu Barroso of Rio's 10th police precinct, in charge of the criminal aspects of the case, said authorities "hope to indict someone for criminal homicide. We are taking statements from survivors, and they are telling us that something aboard that boat was not right."

Cid Castor, a director of Itatiaia Turismo, the Rio travel agency that booked the ill-fated cruise, said the head of its excursion department drowned on that boat.

"The passenger list went down with him. We are in mourning," he said.

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## Rangoon streets fill to mourn hero's widow

**RANGOON (R)** — Big crowds filled Rangoon streets Monday for the first time since a bloody army takeover in September as people turned out in strength for the funeral of the widow of national independence hero Aung San.

Witnesses said more than 100,000 people led by Buddhist monks and marshalled by students walked in procession behind the coffin of Khin Kyi, who died last Tuesday aged 75.

Some students defied the authorities by carrying banners of the National League for Democracy (NLD), the biggest opposition party, which is led by Aung San Suu Kyi, daughter of the deceased.

After the funeral the crowds dispersed peacefully.

Aung San Suu Kyi and other family members walked behind the coffin, which was carried in a flower-strewn hearse in the slow procession through tree-shaded streets.

It moved from Khin Kyi's residence by Inya Lake to a grave in an area reserved for the nation's most respected citizens close to the Shwedagon Pagoda.

Groups of students, who were in the vanguard of last summer's thwarted uprising against military-ruled socialist rule, marched at the head of the procession carrying placards identifying their colleges. Many wore NLD badges.

Witnesses said at one point on the route near the university campus a small group began chanting pro-democracy slogans and waving banners, but this appeared to be an isolated incident.

The military authorities had warned against the funeral being turned into a political demonstration, saying it could lead to "another round of disturbances."

The security forces, who killed hundreds of demonstrators when they opened fire Sept. 18 to enforce the military takeover, kept a low profile with only small detachments of troops seen in the city.

"Quite a number of soldiers were in the procession itself and a couple of government ministers were seen in the vehicles that followed the walkers," one Western diplomat said.

High-ranking government, military, political and other officials as well as foreign diplomats took part in the procession which took about two hours to reach the grave under a hot sun.

There was no sign of Ne Win, the veteran leader who was a close lieutenant of Aung San during the independence struggle. Ne Win renounced his formal titles in July after leading the country for 26 years.

He has not been seen in public since then but Western diplomats in Rangoon believe he still pulls the political strings. There were unconfirmed reports here that he visited Khin Kyi's home the day after her death.

Rangoon Radio said General Saw Maung, head of the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council, Sunday attended funeral rites at Khin Kyi's home, where crowds had gathered to express their condolences since her death.

Khin Kyi, who died after being partially paralysed for months by a series of strokes, became a national political figure in her own right after the assassination of her husband in 1947.

The students who led last summer's mass uprising for democracy often marched beneath portraits of Aung San, the leader of the struggle for independence from Britain.

## Column

### Britons take holidays, have babies later

**LONDON (R)** — Britons are enjoying greater prosperity by taking more foreign holidays, watching more television and having babies later in life, according to a government handbook published Tuesday. Nearly two thirds of all households have a car, three quarters have central heating and eight out of 10 have a telephone, says "Britain 1989", a 480-page volume covering political, economic and social affairs. "Britain has experienced an economic recovery and is now in its eighth year of successive growth, with growth since 1980 being higher than in the other major European Community countries," it said. Contraception and a trend towards later marriage mean that the average age at which women have their first child in marriage has risen to 27, with most families having just two children. Over a third of all pregnancies in 1987 were conceived outside marriage, and of those, over a third were terminated by legal abortion.

### Tower of Pisa leans even further

**PISA (R)** — The Leaning Tower of Pisa tilted over another 1.29 millimetres during 1988, its custodian announced Sunday. Professor Giuseppe Tomiolo, in a year-end report, said the rate at which the tower's tilt worsened during 1988 was in line with the average since 1932, when efforts to stabilise it made the problem worse. Tomiolo said that during 1988 about 750,000 people visited the 56-metre, 12th century tower whose extraordinary incline is caused by subsidence. Experts say the monument, which serves as the bell-tower to Pisa's cathedral and baptistry in a large grassed square, will fall over in about 100 years unless a way can be found to shore it up.

### Montand gets used to father role

**NICE (R)** — French actor Yves Montand, 67, who became a father for the first time at the weekend, said Sunday he had not yet grown used to his new role. "I feel a bit bizarre, I have to keep pinching myself and saying, 'I've got a son' Montand, one of France's best-known screen lovers, said at a news conference. Montand's 28-year-old girlfriend Carole Amiel gave birth to a boy at an exclusive clinic in this southern French resort Saturday. "It poses a few problems because of my age, but I'm still very young. Life begins at 67," Montand said.

### Gold haul seized

**AMSTERDAM (AP)** — A Swiss man carrying 2,250 pieces of gold concealed in his clothing has been arrested on smuggling charges. Dutch customs officials say. Gold jewelry weighing 24 kilograms and worth an estimated \$320,000 was discovered in the suspect's clothing, a customs spokesman speaking on condition of anonymity said Thursday. The suspect, a 28-year-old resident of Zurich, told officers he had been planning to sell the jewelry in Antwerp, Belgium, the spokesman said. The suspect, who was not identified in line with Dutch police practice, faces a \$154,950 fine and \$77,475 in tax and import duties, the spokesman said.

### Smith turns a cheek

**HARARE (AP)** — Alec Smith, son of former Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith, is hoping to raise more than \$250,000 for starving children in a nation his father battled. The younger Smith has organised a "goal against hunger" soccer match between European champion PSV Eindhoven and Racing Club of Argentina, Latin America's current Super Cup winners. The Jan. 15 match will be the first of series of fund-raising soccer matches the 39-year-old Smith is planning to battle hunger in Mozambique. The money raised will buy food to be distributed through charities already working in Mozambique, including Save the Children, World Vision, Christian Care and the Zimbabwe Mozambique Friendship Association. Ian Smith led white-ruled Rhodesia during a bloody seven-year bush war that led to the independence of black-ruled Zimbabwe in 1980. Zimbabwean guerrilla bases in Mozambique were frequently attacked by Rhodesian troops. The younger Smith, who joined the Moral Re-orientation Movement in Switzerland in 1979, returned to independent Zimbabwe to serve as a Presbyterian Chaplain in a national army led by former guerrilla foes of his father.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### Ethiopian rebels foil army advance

**NAIROBI (R)** — Rebels in Northern Ethiopia said Monday that they had foiled an attempt by government troops to break out of their main stronghold in Western Tigray Province. The clandestine radio of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said rebels killed or wounded 2,000 government troops as they tried to advance from the town of Inda Salass last Friday. The TPLF said it captured 400 government soldiers, but gave no details of its own casualties. The rebel group says it has pinned down government troops in Inda Salass since last July, and that it defeated two attempts to relieve the town in September and October. It said its guerrillas forced government troops to retreat in disarray Friday after trying to reopen the road from Inda Salass to the neighbouring coastal province of Eritrea. The TPLF also said it defeated four brigades from the army's ninth division in another engagement Friday, but gave no details. The Ethiopian government rarely comments on military action in the north and has not reported any clashes recently.

### 1988 claimed 1,369 lives in El Salvador

**SAN SALVADOR (AP)** — The deaths of more than 1,300 people in El Salvador's civil war last year "summons us to keep striving for peace," Archbishop Arturo Rivera Damas said Sunday. The Roman Catholic Archbishop said in his New Year's homily that 1,369 civilians, soldiers or leftist rebels were killed last year in military clashes, rightist death-squad slayings and car bombings or other terrorist acts. Rivera Damas customarily uses his homily to speak out against the war, which has claimed an estimated 65,000 lives since leftist rebels began battling the U.S.-backed government in 1979. The recent bombing of a Lutheran church shows "the path of irrational violence" El Salvador has taken, he said. Rivera Damas also expressed concern at the resurgence of the death squads.

### Hirohito's internal bleeding continues

**TOKYO (AP)** — Japan's ailing Emperor remained in serious condition Monday from internal bleeding, while hundreds of well-wishers gathered at the imperial palace to sign New Year's greetings, officials said. The 87-year-old monarch, who has been bedridden since he first hemorrhaged Sept. 19, suffered internal bleeding overnight, said palace sources who asked not to be identified. A statement from the imperial household agency said that despite the internal bleeding, the Emperor had not discharged any blood and there was no major change in his condition.

### IRA to answer for botched killings

**BELFAST (AP)** — Gerry Adams, the president of the Irish Republican Army's legal political wing Sinn Fein, has criticised the guerrilla group for killing civilians in bungled bombings. "My view is quite clear. I think the onus is on the IRA to safeguard the civilians from injury and death," Adams was quoted as saying in an interview with Sunday Life, a Belfast newspaper. Nineteen civilians have died in a series of botched IRA operations in the last 14 months. The outlawed IRA prides itself on targeting the security forces while sparing civilians in its fight to oust the British from Northern Ireland, and the blunders have drawn criticism even from some IRA supporters.

## Reagan popular personally, policies less desirable

By Gary Langer  
The Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — Americans believe President Ronald Reagan has helped the rich and hurt the poor, but a wide majority nonetheless approve of his work in the White House, according to a national poll.

Majorities in the Media General-Associated Press survey gave negative grades to Reagan's social policies and ethics enforcement, rated his judgment unfavorably and said they would not have supported him for a third term.

At the same time, an overwhelming two-thirds approved of the way Reagan has done his job overall and said history will view him positively, and 55 per cent said he has bettered the nation.

The telephone survey was conducted among a random sample of 1,084 adults shortly after the Nov. 8 election. Reagan leaves office Jan. 20.

The poll found two factors at the heart of Reagan's popularity: Wide belief that his economic

policies have helped the nation and high regard for his leadership. He also scored well on defence and U.S.-Soviet relations.

Reagan's ratings sagged elsewhere. While nearly two-thirds said his economic policies have been good for the nation, for example, an overwhelming 80 per cent rated his handling of the budget deficit negatively.

Moreover, 54 per cent said the poor are worse off economically as a result of Reagan's policies, and 72 per cent said wealthy Americans are better off. Opinion was more divided on the middle class: One-third called it worse off, a quarter said better off and the rest saw little change.

A third of respondents said they and their families were better off as a result of Reagan's efforts, and 18 per cent said they were worse off. But they split evenly when asked to score Reagan's handling of the economy, and more than twice as many picked the worst rating as chose the best. The poll gave "excellent" or



Ronald Reagan

"good" as positive choices, "only fair" or "poor" as negatives.

Reagan received negative ratings for his handling of every social issue posed: Civil rights, 51 per cent negative; education, 54 per cent negative; housing, 65 per cent negative; and welfare, 67 per cent negative. Six in 10 rated him negatively on his handling of

ethics in government.

### Deficit, welfare, housing

In all these gauges, Reagan fared worst among Democrats, but he also was rated negatively by most independents. Majorities of Republicans endorsed him on most issues but not on the deficit, welfare or housing.

On two other issues, he scored extraordinarily well: Seven in 10 rated him favourably for defence policies and eight in 10 rated him positively on handling relations with the Soviets.

Six in 10 viewed Reagan's other foreign policies favourably. The poll was done before he opened contact with the Palestine Liberation Organisation last month.

Even with his mixed policy ratings, six in 10 respondents ranked Reagan positively for his accomplishments in office overall and two-thirds rated his leadership ability as excellent or good. A full three-quarters favourably rated his charisma

and ability to communicate.

On his judgment as president, 53 per cent rated him negatively. But he was seen as effective: Six in 10 said he has accomplished most of what he set out to do.

On his effectiveness, as in many other issues, Reagan did best with the youngest adults, age 18-29, and worst with the oldest, 65 and over. He also did considerably better with men than with women.

Fifty-two per cent said they would not have voted Reagan for a third term if he were legally allowed to seek one — down from 64 per cent when the Media General-AP poll asked the question last spring. Half the men polled, but just 37 per cent of the women, favoured a third Reagan term.

The survey, conducted Nov. 18-20, has a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points.

Media General Inc., a communications company based in Richmond, Virginia, publishes four newspapers and operates three television stations.